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SOCIAL SCIENCE.

THE annual congress on this subject is in every way one of the most modern facts of the time. It is an attempt to do for social reform what the British Association does for physical discovery. But it is only of late years that people have attempted to make social reform systematic, or to class it as a science at all. And here lies the novelty. Our reformers now want to reduce their pursuits into regular order, to make sanitary improvement, education, and all kindred movements, as regular topics of knowledge, and as practical, as medicine or navigation. We feel the importance of the project, and some remarks on it will not be out of place this week, when the projectors are assembling at one of our great towns.

The first thing that strikes one in the matter is the admission which it involves, that the condition of the people is the real question of the age. This truth dates from the French Revolution, when Europe first saw what political consequences might come from the misery of the lower orders. In old times, the local dependence of the people kept them quiet, and they lived, roughly indeed, but not miserably, on the greater plenty afforded by a thin population and a simpler state of society. But the break-up of the old system, while it made them more independent of their superiors, also left them more out of their sight and care; and hence the social sufferings of the class burst upon the world in the last century like novelty. The "people" has been a new word since 1789. All our science and literature has been coloured afresh by its influence. And if we inquire who are the newest statesmen, the newest writers, we shall find they are all men on whose minds that influence has worked. We do not speak so much with an eye to politics. A man may be an absolutist, like the Napoleonic school, and yet feel the state of the lower orders to be the most important problem of the time; or he may be a democrat, on the other hand, and yet not be conspicuous as a labourer in the matter of the people's private condition. What we mean is, that that condition is felt to be the modern difficulty; and that, as our histories now aim at showing what it was in the past, so our most promising statesmanship is always inquiring how to better it in the present.

It is a mere common-place to say that this view is laudable, but now that we have a batch of gentlemen sitting to discuss every shade of it, we may as well indicate where the strength and weakness of their way of setting about business lies. And, first, for "congresses;" why, they are well enough. They are recognitions of the truth on an imposing scale. They are Royal Exchanges for ideas. They bring a Kingsley school face to face with a Chadwick school, and these teach each other something. They leave leading people of all conditions—landlords, masters, employers, and what not—no excuse for being ignorant of a number of ways in which they may do good. But there is a danger, we think, coming up

which is worth considering, the danger that by dividing "social" too sharply from other reforms, we may throw on them the reproach of being a more philanthropic kind of patronage. England must not be turned into a soup-kitchen or a barrel of chloride of lime only. We must not tolerate abuses because charity can a little assuage the results of abuses. We must respect the people as well as pity them. And, therefore, we should be glad to see a little more stress laid on reforms of the executive and of taxation, reforms of the parochial system of government, retrenchment in state expenditure, all which may as justly be brought within the scope of "social science" as half a score subjects in this year's programme. There is a disposi-

to work as fearlessly as anatomy. What would anatomy have been, if it had shrunk from the howl once raised against dissection?

We have thought it right to make these observations, because there is a kind of timidity visible among our social reformers, which on the intellectual side takes the form of priggism, and on the moral that of cant. But the great questions they have to deal with will not admit of such influences; and some of them, we foresee, will raise controversies much more fiery in their character than those discussions on fossils which amuse the rival associations. There is the competition system, for example, and the middle-class examination question, both of

which open very large and serious inquiries. As to the first, we are prepared for traces of a reaction; for like every scheme of our age, it was made far too much of on its first appearance. We rather congratulate ourselves on having always taken a moderate view of it; but we stick to what we did say in its favour as firmly as we did a year ago. The truth appears to be this: Competition is one contrivance for making up for the decay of something better than itself. Perfectly honest and enlightened patronage is certainly more natural, if only because it keeps up the moral and sentimental link between the old and new generations. For instance, Sir Colin Campbell would certainly choose himself a better aide-de-camp than would be got by throwing the aide-de-camp appointments open to those who wrote the best papers on the subjects which such an officer ought to know. Nor, indeed, is the capacity of answering questions on paper any certain test of a qualification for action. A man may know what a ship ought to be done with when taken aboard in a squall, and yet lose his head in such a position when in charge of the watch. But then active qualities can only be judged of in action, whereas you can make sure of a certain amount of knowledge in an examination, and are therefore safe so far. And then, again, your patronage system is confessedly bad, and this at least is a decent alternative. So too with the middle-class examinations and the A.A. degrees; they will work no miracles, but at least we may hope that their existence will stimulate the activity of the middle-class schools. We are told that ambitious

youngsters will be brought forward who may prove dangerous to the public stability. But this will soon right itself. Really able men will make their way the quicker for the training and the distinction; and the degree will soon find its level in the cube of all others, as the genuine degree does just now. Fights are made about these little movements of change because the interests of large classes are bound up with the old system; the richer or upper middle classes having a pseudo-aristocratic jealousy of the grocers, like that which dictated a memorable speech by Lord Ellenborough. All this is very contemptible. Let competition and the A.A. or other experiment have its trial. We suspect they will not be found alarming in the long run.



A GAME AT CHESS.—(FROM A PICTURE BY MISS EDWARDS, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE LIVERPOOL SOCIETY OF FINE ARTS.)

tion in many of our social reformers to shirk delicate questions, questions involving the advantages and power of classes, as if everything political was to be too closely shunned, or as if politics had any importance apart from their social utility. Why do not we hear whether our reformers are going to tolerate that perpetual driving of the London poor into particular districts which has been going on for years to the advantage of some parishes and the ruin of others? Why is not the "local government" question more rudely broached, when we know that under that time-honoured phrase lies hid often the ignorance and prejudice of illiterate shopkeepers? "Science" has no fears or prejudices, and if social science is to be anything it must go

Sanitary subjects naturally figure conspicuously before the association. These ought to be treated with reference to a cure for the overcrowding above alluded to as the result of parochial selfishness, and also with reference to some plan for checking local obstinacy and ignorance. The advantages of self-government we all know; its disadvantages are not so readily listened to, partly from an "old English" feeling which is really respectable, and partly because people confound the power of local traders with the principles of democracy, and are afraid to move against it. But the truth is that the working classes and the poor are very sensible of the indifference shown to them by parochial magnates, and a measure for enforcing sanitary improvement more than is now permitted would be popular as soon as it was understood. But it is impossible to touch half the points of interest connected with this gathering in the space of an article, and we must take our chance of a fresh crop of topics from the hands of the social science men on a future occasion.

A GAME AT CHESS.

This engraving is from a picture by Miss Edwards, and forms part of the Exhibition of the Liverpool Society of Fine Arts. It is nicely composed, and is said to be charmingly coloured, though we confess we have not had the advantage of seeing the original. Chess is a favourite subject with artists; and we know of more than one painter who is passionately addicted to the game itself. For our own part, we never could see the charm of that peaceful miniature warfare, which, to attain anything like excellence in it, requires as much study as mathematics, and which is about as useful an accomplishment as billiard-playing or whittling. We like chess, however, for the sake of the anecdotes connected with it; partly, too, for the sake of the old Café de la Régence, much frequented by Flaubert; and, above all, for the number of agreeable pictures it has suggested. Miss Edwards has chosen for her little scene, a period when chess was as much the rage in France, as stock-jobbing is in the present day. The picture, too, like all the chess-pictures, tells a story which will be evident enough to those who understand the game, and who can read human physiognomy.

There are two exhibitions of paintings at present open at Liverpool, one of which is supported chiefly by the pre-Raphaelite painters, the other by the local Society of Fine Arts, who have succeeded in collecting some of the most popular pictures of the day. Thus, Sir Edwin Landseer has been induced to send his "Maid and the Magic," in reference to which, a local paper observes that "no provincial exhibition has before been favoured with a work just exhibited by this great master, and also that Sir Edwin Landseer, being particularly anxious to show his approval of the new society himself, borrowed the picture for this exhibition." Another of the great attractions is Debon's "Maid-deeds of Deceit," which was sent expressly to the Liverpool Exhibition by the Queen. Ford's "Break in the Family," which forms part of a Liverpool private collection, some landscapes by the Boddingtons, and a few marine sketches by E. W. Cooke, are mentioned among the minor beauties of the gallery; but the picture which obtains more attention than any other, is Rosa Bonheur's original picture of the "Horse Fair," not the large painting which has been exhibited through the country, but the one from which that was taken. The greater portion of the picture now exhibiting at Liverpool had been already completed, when it occurred to the artist to treat the subject on a larger scale; but, in finishing the original, she devoted more attention to the execution than was afterwards bestowed on that of the other painting. One of the Liverpool Ruskins falls foul of Mr. Armitage's "Retribution," and assures his readers that the artist "has obviously mistaken coarseness for power." Whether such a terrible mistake has or has not been made, it is quite certain that there is nothing very "obvious" in it; for, at the Royal Academy Exhibition, in London, Mr. Armitage's picture was very much admired, both by critics and by the public. It appears, however, that, at Liverpool, it has the effect of throwing into the shade "a lady-like and artistic portrait of Mrs. Richard Naylor, Hooton Hall."

One of the most remarkable things connected with this Liverpool Exhibition, is the novelty of the means adopted for deciding as to the merits of the principal pictures. Prizes are to be given away, and the public are to have a share in naming the recipients. Every first-class subscriber received a card upon which to record his or her opinion as to the most meritorious of the pictures and statues exhibited. These cards have been already received and examined. The council has also held two meetings with a similar object, and already the members are not only unanimous among themselves, but their opinions exactly coincide with the result of the public voting. This unanimity is charming, and Mr. Goodall, who is to receive the first prize of one hundred pounds for his "Crannier going to the Tower," and Mr. T. S. Cooper, who is to receive the fifty pounds prize for his "October Evening," cannot fail to be gratified at being thus honoured, simultaneously, with the approbation of the unthinking multitude and the critical few. Once in a way, this method of applying the suffrage to the estimation of works of art may answer; but if applied generally to paintings (and if to paintings why not to music and books?) how truly ludicrous would be the result? The fact is, prizes ought not to be given to celebrated painters at all. The judges of the turf are more reasonable in these matters. The winners of the Derby and St. Leger are incapacitated from contending for certain minor prizes, and in the same way an academician should either be "weighed" or excluded altogether from entering the lists with unknown artists. The general public have never yet understood merit. They can understand nothing but fame; and if the opinion of the many in novelties of art be taken, our rising artists will be neglected, and all the prizes will be reserved for painters who already enjoy certain conventional reputations.

AN AMERICAN has just purchased for 75,000*fr.* the famous chateau of Monte Christo, near Saint Germain, which was built by M. Alexandre Dumas at an expense of more than 400,000*fr.*

STORY OF FISHER.—Professor Owen, at the annual soirée of the Leeds Mechanics Institution, related the following anecdote:—Some of the working scientific men of London, with a few others, have formed a sort of club; and after our winter's work of lecturing is over, we occasionally sally forth to have a day's fishing. We have for that purpose taken a small river in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, and near its banks there stands a little public-house, where we dine soberly and sparingly, on such food as old Isaac Walton loved. We have a rule that he who catches the biggest fish of the day shall be the president for the evening. In the course of one day, a member, not a scientific man, but a high political man, caught a trout that weighed 3*lb.*; but earlier in the day he had pulled out a barbel of 4*lb.* weight. So, while we were on the way to our inn, what did this political gentleman do but with the butt-end of his rod ram the barbel down the trout's throat, in which state he handed his fish to be weighed. Thus he scored 4*lb.*, which being the greatest weight, he took the chair. As we were going away for home, a man of science—it was the president of the Royal Society—said to the man of politics, "If you don't want that fine fish of yours, I should like to have it, for I have some friends to dine with me to-morrow." Mr. Lord took it home, and I heard no more until we met on the next week. Then, while we were preparing our tackle, the president of the Royal Society said to our high political friend, "There were some extraordinary circumstances, do you know, about that fish you gave me. I had no idea that the trout was so voracious; but that one had swallowed a barbel." "I am astonished to hear your Lordship say so," rejoined an eminent naturalist; "trout may be voracious enough to swallow minnows—but a barbel, my Lord! There must be some mistake." "Not at all," replied his Lordship, "for the fact got to my family, that the cook, in cutting open the trout, had found a barbel inside; and as my family knew I was fond of natural history, I was called into the kitchen. There I saw it—the trout had swallowed a barbel, full half a pound weight." "Out of the question, my Lord," said the naturalist; "it's altogether quite unscientific and unphilosophical." "I don't know what may be philosophical in the matter—I only know I am telling you a matter of fact," said his Lordship; and the dispute having lasted awhile, explanations were given, and the practical joke was heartily enjoyed.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The French papers are full of glowing accounts of the reception of their Majesty at the camp of Chalons and at Rheims. The Emperor's presence electrified the soldiers; it appears. A grand mass was performed by the camp on Sunday. It was a most imposing ceremony. The vast plain around the altar was filled with troops drawn up in battle array, while behind them stood thousands upon thousands of the country people. The mass was chanted by the whole of the troops. At the elevation of the host the cannons boomed, drums were beaten, arms presented, and flags hoisted in token of respect. A grand review was afterwards held.

At Rheims, also, the reception of the Emperor and Empress was most enthusiastic; but the Mayor, in his speech, unfortunately spoke of the aid in privilege of Rheims in consecrating the kings. His Majesty said, in reply, that the Napoleonic dynasty had long been consecrated by the generous blood which had been shed on the battle-field; and that the dynasty would be supported for the future as in the past. There was no need to seek among ancient traditions a new element of vitality. He finally congratulated himself on so warm a reception.

The "Moniteur" announces that the statement made by some of the journals, that orders had been given to officers and soldiers on leave to retain their plumes, are without foundation.

The Peninsular difficulty occupies a large share of public attention. It is generally believed, however, that it will be amicably settled—by arbitration, perhaps.

SPAIN.

The Spanish Government has published a decree, ordering the sale of all estates belonging to the Government, to Don Carlos, and confessing openly that there is no worse administration of real property than a government one.

O'Donnell's chances at the elections are described as rapidly rising.

A powder magazine has exploded at Barcelona. Several people were killed, and others wounded.

PRUSSIA.

The King has at length recognised the necessity of nominating the Prince of Prussia as regent. His Royal Highness has, therefore, full charge of the Government of the country, and is authorized to act as he may think best in his capacity of regent. The documents necessary to the confirmation of this resolution, will be found at length in another column.

The health of the King is still on the decline. It is even said that he has become paralysed, and is wheeled from room to room in an arm-chair.

RUSSIA.

Some reports of an attempt to assassinate the Czar have been current this week; they are quite without confirmation.

The question of provisioning the troops largely occupies the attention of the Government, since "hitherto, though the contractors have benefited, the state and the troops have suffered." Not a remarkable result.

ITALY.

The project of making Spezia an establishment for the Sardinian navy was thought to have been abandoned, and Count de Cavour even announced as much from the tribune, but that does not now appear to be the case, for the works are about to be resumed. Tenders have been advertised for fortifications to be built on the Island of Palmara, at the entrance of the bay. At Castellana a wall with masked batteries will be built on the western side of the town.

Frequent arrests still take place within the Duchy of Massa. A letter from Florence states that the increase of a quattrino (less than a French centime) in the price of cigars (a Government monopoly) has created such discontent in Tuscany, that many have given up the use of tobacco. Those who appear in public smoking cigars are often very rudely stopped and requested to throw them away; disturbances, therefore, have become very frequent.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

That Lord Stratford de Redcliffe's visit to Constantinople was not merely a ceremonial one is now more than suspected. There is a story of a secret mission; and the "Times" correspondent asserts that his Lordship is bearer of an autograph letter from her Majesty, in which she informs her brother and ally the Sultan, that Lord Stratford, her faithful Ambassador for many years at the Sultan's Court, has come out to take leave of his Majesty, and that she requests the Sultan to receive favourably whatever so tried a friend of Turkey may have to say about the execution of the Hatti Humayoun of 1856. It is further reported that England will ask to rent the Isle of Perim for 100 years.

Prince Danilo, notwithstanding the promise, made by him to the foreign consuls, has not, it seems, released the prisoners taken at Kolashin, nor restored the booty carried off on that occasion. The inhabitants of Kolashin having sent another petition to the Porte, praying that the Montenegrin chief may be compelled to perform his promises, the Porte communicated the application to the foreign legations, who addressed themselves direct to Prince Danilo on the subject of the fulfilment of his engagements.

From Tetuan, a small seaport on the coast of Morocco, tidings of another outbreak of Moslem fanaticism have been received. The French and English vice-consuls have fallen victims to the fury of the mob. The latter was a native, but the representative of France was a Frenchman, named Nahon, who had long been established at Tetuan.

AMERICA.

There is no news of importance from America. Gold has been discovered in Kansas. The richest mines yet found were on Cherry Creek, a tributary of the South Platte. The Indians were still troublesome at Oregon, where, indeed, a regular war is being carried on.

The King of Rarotonga and Tahaa (Society) Islands has been dethroned; and a proposition has been made to the United States consul for the annexation of the island to the United States. It is suggested that the whole scheme has been concocted by the resident Americans. Indeed, we learn that the French brig of war, *Hydrograph*, arriving at Rarotonga at this time, took Mr. Thomas Croft and Mr. Jordan, American citizens, into custody, and conveyed them to Tahiti, on account of their annexation predilections.

The agents of the Emperor of Hayti are travelling in America, with the object of learning the sentiments of the free negro population with regard to emigration to that island.

The reserve of the electricians in charge of the Atlantic telegraph at Newfoundland, as compared with the free communications upon the other side, has excited a great deal of bad feeling, and has compelled the honorary directors to order that hereafter more full communications be made public. They have been very chary of their information. The first news of the real state of things at Newfoundland came from London. In several cases they have allowed despatches to come forward that have deceived the public.

GREAT STORM OFF THE PENINSULAR COAST.—A violent storm visited the Peninsular coast on the 26th ult. It came on with a south-east gale. In Gibraltar many houses were inundated. In Catalan Bay, where there is stationed a detachment of the 25th regiment, the soldiers were washed out of their quarters. Large quantities of sand and stone rolled down the rock during the night, and obstructed communication with the village. A French brig, named *Blascon*, grounded off Campar. The French brig *Hippolyte* was sunk in a whirlwind, and the captain was drowned. His faithful dog clung to him to save him, so that he could not exert himself, and both perished. The boats of the French man-of-war *Redoubtable* saved the crew of the *Hippolyte*. The Earl of Cardigan, in his steam yacht *Airedale*, towed the *Redoubtable's* boats back in safety, after they had saved the crew. The Indian mail vessel *Truro*, bound to the East, arrived at Gibraltar on the 26th ult., and lost a boat and a part of a public wheel in the storm. The brig *Blann*, of Hartlepool, was lost in the storm; the crew was saved.

THE PRUSSIAN REGENCY.

THE Royal ordinance which invests the Prince of Prussia as regent, the Regency has at length appeared; it was signed on the 7th inst. The last difficulties have been removed, and there remains only the family arrangements to be settled relative to the dotation of the Prince, guaranteed on the produce of the royal domains.

The Prussian "Moniteur" publishes the two following decrees:—

"I, TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF PRUSSIA, in replacing me in the direction of the affairs of the Government, have, in view which has elapsed since the commencement of my illness, your Majesty's illness has given me a great consolation, for which I return you my thanks. Now that I am, by God's will, still preserved, I have, in view of my health, from leaving myself to the cares of government, and have, in view of the inspirations of your conscience, and having regard to the duties of a monarch, until the moment I shall be again able myself to fulfil the duties of the Royal functions, and beg of you to take the necessary measures in the object. I reserve to myself to make ulterior arrangements respecting the affairs of my Royal house which concern my person."

Sans-Souci, 7th October, 1858. (Signed) "FREDERICK-WILLIAM."

(Countersigned) "VON MANTUEFFEL," "VON FLOTTWELL," "VON DER HAUSEN," "VON BODELSCHWINGH."

"II.—TO THE MINISTRY OF STATE. According to the tenour of the royal decree annexed, under date of 7th inst., his Majesty the King is prevented from performing his duties, the illness which it has pleased God to afflict him with, has rendered him so personally to the affairs of the Government, that he is unable to fulfil his duty, and has, in view of his health, from leaving himself to the cares of government, and has, in view of the inspirations of your conscience, and having regard to the duties of a monarch, until the moment I shall be again able myself to fulfil the duties of the Royal functions, and beg of you to take the necessary measures in the object. I reserve to myself to make ulterior arrangements respecting the affairs of my Royal house which concern my person."

"Conformably to the terms of the 56th Article of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Prussia, the Prince of Prussia, in view of his illness, is prevented from performing his duties, and the Government in the name of the King, until the moment I shall be again able myself to fulfil the duties of the Royal functions, and beg of you to take the necessary measures in the object. I reserve to myself to make ulterior arrangements respecting the affairs of my Royal house which concern my person."

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Berlin, 9th October. (Signed) "WILLIAM, Prince of Prussia, Regent."

(Countersigned) "VON MANTUEFFEL," "VON FLOTTWELL," "VON DER HAUSEN," "VON BODELSCHWINGH."

A letter from Berlin, dated the 9th instant, says—"Prussia will once again resume, in the European concert and at the German Diet, the rank which a too long *prostration* had compromised; and, from the system of repression and reaction which weighed upon us, will place to a more tolerant spirit, and to the honest practice of the principles of legality and constitutional right. All men breathe more freely the air which was so parsimoniously doled out to them, and every Prussian heart hopes good things for the future. We know beforehand that also abroad the new era about to commence for Prussia will be hailed with sympathy by all nations and by all Governments. The claim is broken, and Prussia is herself again."

Hitherto the Prince of Prussia has not received any special allowance as *locum tenens* for the King, whose functions he performed last year. It naturally becomes necessary that a provision be made for the necessities of his new position, without levying a tax on the country. A "rent" of 2,500,000 dollars, guaranteed on the produce of the Crown domains, forms the dotation of the Crown. Now, the domains, which were formerly the patrimonial property of the Royal family, bring in much larger returns, so that the surplus will suffice to provide for the new Regency. It is not probable, however, that the question will be brought forward in the extraordinary session of the Chambers convoked for the 20th instant, and which will be solely occupied with giving the constitutional sanction to the new order of things.

The first act of the Regent has been the dismissal of M. de Westphalen, the Minister of the Interior, the representative in the Cabinet of the small but now powerful "party of reaction." M. de Westphalen's signature is not affixed either to the Royal decree of the 7th, or to the ordinance of the Regent of the 9th—the name of M. Flottwell, President of the province of Brandenburg, figures there instead. It is probable that other changes will soon follow in the Ministry.

The King was to leave Berlin, about the 12th instant, for Meran, in the Italian Tyrol. The Queen accompanies her august husband.

TREATY WITH NICARAGUA.

THE "New York Times" publishes the draft of a treaty, which it asserts, Sir W. G. Ouseley has negotiated with the Nicaraguan Government. The following summary of the treaty is given in the American journal:—

"This important document is a commercial convention of the most comprehensive character, and is reciprocal in almost all its stipulations. Its chief object is to prevent privileges being granted to the people of any country that are not equally granted to British subjects. In matters of trade, especially, the Englishman is placed by Nicaragua on a par with the citizen of the most favoured nation. He is assured that the levies on his importations, the duties on his ships, or the taxes on his property, shall not exceed those imposed upon the goods and merchandise of any other foreigner. The Englishman's right to hold and transfer real estate in Nicaragua is made undoubted; he is guaranteed full protection in person and property; he is declared exempt from military dues and forced loans; he is promised perfect religious freedom; his ships, if wrecked on the Nicaraguan coast, must not be plundered, but must be restored to the owner; and, in the event of war, if he obeys the law, his goods cannot be subjected either to seizure or to sequestration. To the transit question the British diplomatist has devoted the utmost care, and it is not difficult to perceive that he has endeavoured to nullify or counteract those special privileges which it was supposed were about to be conceded to the United States by the Cas-Yrissari treaty. We find, therefore, in article 20, that the right of transit between the two oceans, any route that may be hereafter constructed in Nicaraguan territory, is fully conceded to Great Britain, and it is distinctly stipulated that no foreigners will be permitted to enjoy privileges from which British subjects are excluded. It will be further seen that, by this convention, the British Government accords a conditional protection to the inter-oceanic route, guarantees its neutrality, and promises its influence to induce other nations to do the same. The most important stipulation, however, is that which, in the event of Nicaragua failing to protect the persons and property of passengers traversing the Isthmus, gives to Great Britain the right of employing force for such a purpose. There are other articles in the convention, bearing upon transit matters, which will not fail to attract observation. One, for instance, stipulates that the rights and privileges conceded to British subjects shall be fully protected and reserved in all grants made to be hereafter made by Nicaragua. Another provides that the tolls on any canal or railroad across the Isthmus shall be limited to fifteen per cent. profit to the company that may be in possession of the same."

The "New York Times" further remarks on the terms of this Treaty:—

"We do not suppose that, in this matter, England is seeking to obtain any superior or exclusive advantages for her own citizens over those of other nations. On the contrary, the Ouseley convention contains fair promises that the neutrality of the Isthmus route shall be guaranteed, and that all nations shall be treated with equal favour. But in a question where American interests so greatly predominate—where the point at issue is the freedom of a highway between our Atlantic and Pacific possessions—we can hardly consent that any European Power should stand on a political par with ourselves, though we are willing to concede, fully and fairly, commercial equality in its broadest sense. For this reason we believe that the clause in the Ouseley convention, which permits Great Britain, at her own option, to employ an armed force for the protection of the Isthmus, will be steadily opposed in this country as inimical to our interests, and an undoubted infringement of the Monroe Doctrine."

M. THIERRY, the historian, is staying in the French province of Piedmont, engaged in collecting material for a new work.

M. DONATI, the discoverer of the new comet, has been appointed Astronomer of the Imperial Museum of Florence.

INDIA,

We may expect, with some confidence, that, acting in consonance with this proceeding, the Court of Peking has sent instructions to Hwang to discontinue his proceedings in the South. So far as Hwang is concerned, this will terminate all his intrigues against us; but, as the "gentry" have spent some money in the matter, and may feel assured that any success would obtain not only pardon, but a distribution of buttons and peacocks' feathers, it would be well if General Straubenzee could be induced to rouse himself, not to burn a village or sack a hamlet, but to cut off a camp of "braves," and thus to crush out this trumpery joint-stock Quantung war. As to the denizens of Hong-Kong, we fear we can offer them no more palatable advice than to make themselves independent of their Chinese footmen, to dethrone their revolutionary Provisional Attorney-General, and to make up their foolish quarrels.—*Times*.

BARON GROS.

BARON JEAN BAPTISTE GROS, a diplomatist of considerable attainments and experience, was born some sixty years since. He commenced his diplomatic career in 1823, but does not appear to have been entrusted with any important appointment until after the revolution of July, when he was sent to Mexico, as Secretary to the French Legation, and shortly after to Bogota, as *Chargé d'Affaires*. During his residence here he was entrusted with many important negotiations, which he conducted with so much satisfaction to the Home Government, that he was soon recalled to discharge more important duties in a wider field. In 1849, when the French expedition was despatched to Rome by the Emperor, then President of the Republic, Baron Gros was sent to England, and so ably discharged the delicate duties entrusted to him, that in 1850 he was selected to proceed to Athens, as Minister Plenipotentiary, and to act as mediator between the Governments of England and Greece, whose difficulties he soon succeeded in adjusting. The Baron was next appointed one of the Plenipotentiaries to mark the line of frontier between France and Spain. After a long negotiation, a treaty was signed at Bayonne, in 1856, which put an end to a difficulty, the solution of which had occupied the two Governments for centuries.

Baron Gros was now raised high in the estimation of the Imperial Government, who, in 1857, sent him to China as Ambassador Extraordinary, specially charged to demand satisfaction for the murder of Monsieur Chapdeleine, a French missionary; and also to act in concert with Lord Elgin. Their joint mission was satisfactory in every respect. Baron Gros obtained every concession required by his Government. The indemnity to be paid to France is not so great as that to be paid to England, who demands £800,000, in addition to the like sum for the expenses of the war, on account of the losses sustained by British residents in China through the conduct of the Chinese authorities at Canton. France had merely to claim the expenses of the war, and compensation for the murder of the unfortunate missionary.

SIGNING THE CHINESE TREATY

In No. 182 of this journal we described the ceremonies observed at the signing of the Treaty between England and China; and with the accompanying illustrations, for which we are indebted to M. Duchesne de Bellecour,



BARON GROS, FRENCH PLENIPOTENTIARY IN CHINA. — (FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY M. FRANCK.)

secretary to Baron Gros, we propose to lay before our readers extracts from the letter of a correspondent who was present at the scenes we have illustrated.

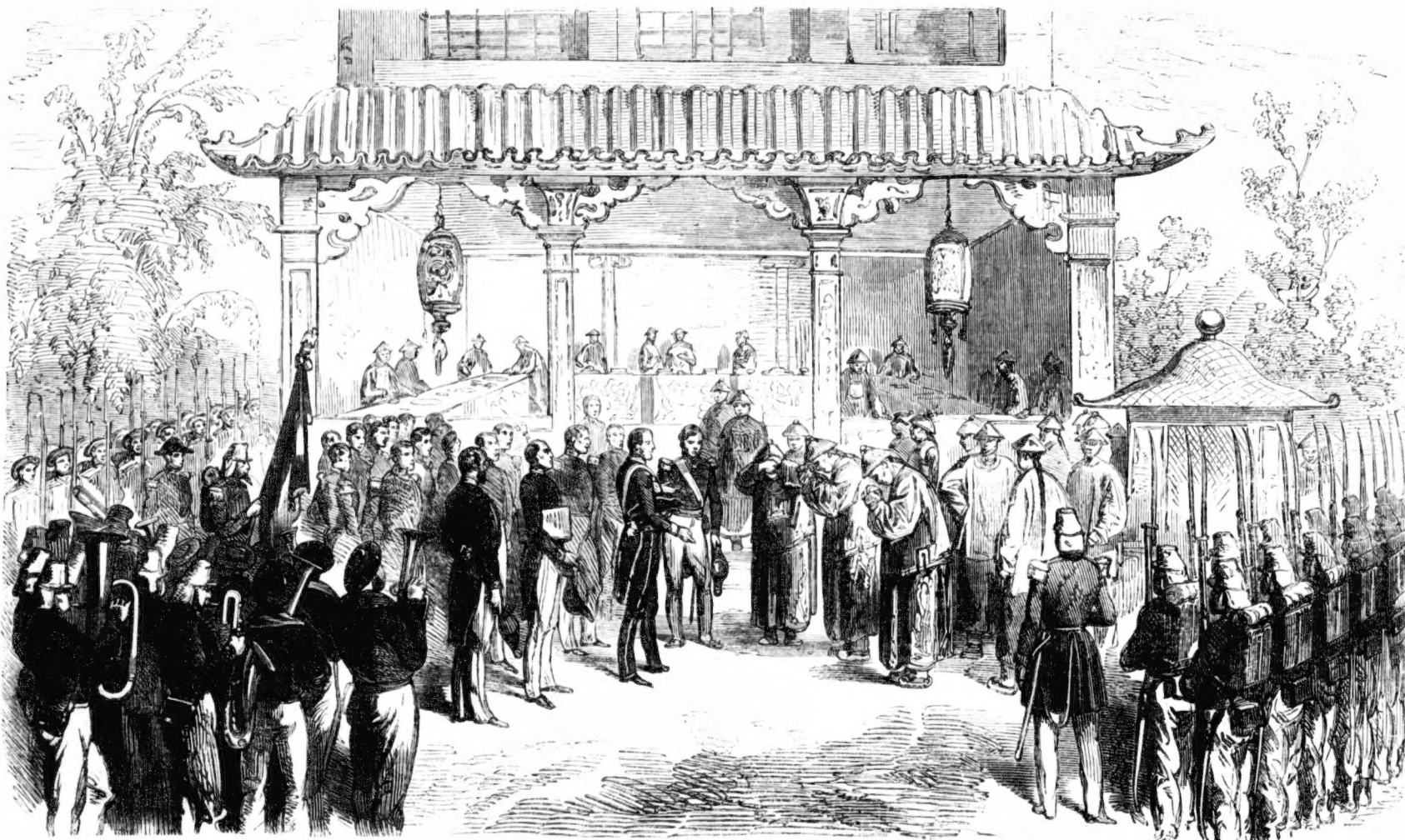
"At the very moment when the ambassadors left their yamuns to proceed to the place of meeting, which was in one of the principal temples at Tien-tsin, it was announced that the Chinese Commissioners were approaching the village by the Pekin road. The cortege consisted of the three Commissioners, preceded and followed by a numerous body of attendants, some on horseback, some in palanquins, and others on foot, all clothed in silks and satins of the most beautiful colours, and richly embroidered with gold, and ornamented with jewels of great value. When they entered the court of the temple, the Commissioners advanced towards the ambassadors, saluting them by joining their two hands together, which they raised once or twice to their forehead. This mode of salutation is the most respectful which a Chinese of rank can make. The allied troops presented arms to the Celestials; and, by way of returning the compliment which had the previous evening been paid to the Plenipotentiaries, to whose yamuns a party of Chinese musicians had been sent to charm the ears of the barbarians, the band from the ship of Admiral Rigault de Genouilly was in attendance, and played some popular French music, to the great delight and astonishment of the Celestials. After the first salutations had been, with much ceremony, exchanged, the Allied Ambassadors and the Commissioners proceeded to refresh themselves with sweetmeats, tea, and wine, which had been prepared specially for them and their suites. After partaking of the delicacies laid before them, the dishes were removed, and the tables covered with handsome cloths, and then the process of signing the treaty was proceeded with, as before recounted."

BURIAL OF FRENCH SEAMEN KILLED AT THE ATTACK ON THE PEIHO FORTS.

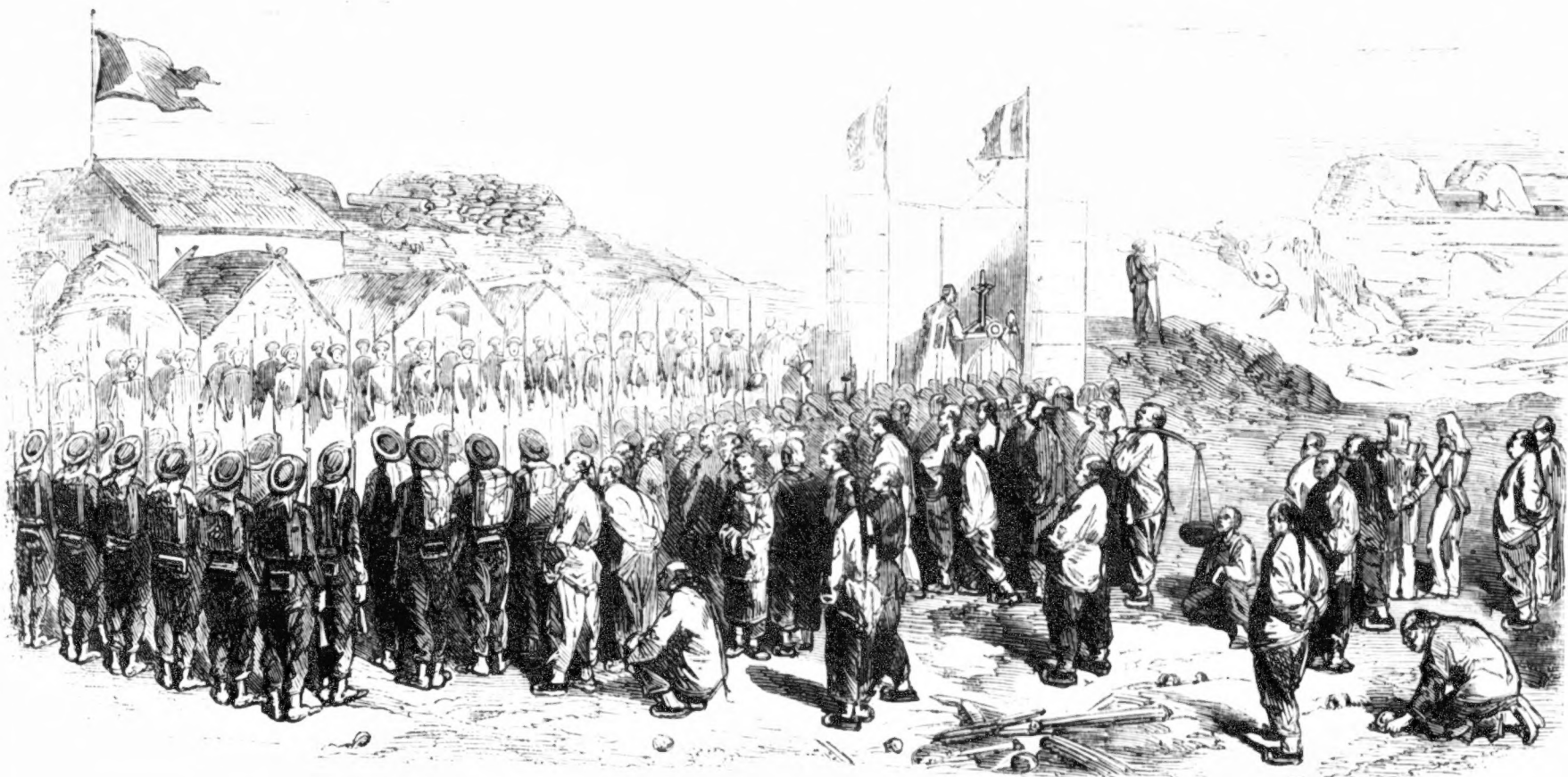
We are indebted to M. Deslandes for the sketch we this week publish of the funeral ceremony performed in honour of our Allies who fell at the attack on the Peiho forts. Our readers are doubtless aware, from accounts which have already appeared, that the great loss sustained by our gallant neighbours was owing to an explosion of one of the captured forts.

We subjoin the French version of the affair:—

"At ten o'clock in the morning



INTERVIEW BETWEEN THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH PLENIPOTENTIARIES AND THE CHINESE COMMISSIONERS, PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY.



FUNERAL SERVICE IN THE PEIHO FORTS IN HONOUR OF THE FRENCHMEN KILLED DURING THE ASSAULT.

of the 20th of May, the gunboats took up their positions, and opened fire, amidst cries from the crews of *Vice l'Empereur*. Every shot told on the breastworks of the enemy, entering the embrasures, and putting *hors de combat* the Chinese gunners, whose places were promptly supplied by fresh relays.

The day previous to the engagement, the Chinese general said to the Russian admiral Putiatine: "Let them come; we are prepared for them." Truly a more desperate resistance would have been im-

possible. The gunboats were but three hundred feet from the forts, and in this case "every bullet had its billet." The enemy undoubtedly suffered considerable loss, and the last of their guns dismounted must have been remanned several times. When the fire from the forts had slackened, landing companies were told off, and a spirited assault made on the enemy's position. After a desperate resistance from the Chinese, the attacking party made good their footing, and in a few moments the French flag proudly waving from the captured forts

proclaimed their triumph. While all were congratulating each other on the success just achieved, a fearful explosion occurred; and those who, a minute before, shouted their cry of victory, were now either numbered with the dead or dying. Fifty-five men and three officers were killed and disabled by this melancholy termination of a well-fought action—a termination which, as may readily be supposed, cast a gloom, for a time at least, over the spirits of the whole expedition—English as well as French.



VISIT OF THE QUEEN OF SPAIN TO THE MINES OF SAN JUAN.

VISIT OF THE QUEEN OF SPAIN TO THE MINES OF ST. JUAN.

DURING the recent progress of Queen Isabella through the Spanish provinces, some coal mines in the neighbourhood of San Juan were visited by the royal tourist. Her Majesty expressed a desire to descend into the principal pit, which is upwards of 350 feet deep, and to penetrate further into it than any one had yet done. The President of the Council, Marshal O'Donnell, recommended her Majesty not to make the descent, as it might be attended with some danger, but the Queen persisted. The Minister and General Lemery then went down, so as to be in readiness to receive the Queen; and her Majesty, accompanied by the King, and attended by the director, and the engineer, Mr. Smith, afterwards descended. When the Queen got to the bottom, we are told, she cried to her suite that they might follow her without fear. She then went along the principal gallery of the pit, which goes on an incline for upwards of 300 yards—great part of which is under the sea. Arrived at the very extremity, the Queen traced her initials on a large block of coal, with the drops from a tallow candle. The director avowed that no female had ever had the courage to go so far, and he requested and obtained permission to place a stone on the spot in commemoration of her Majesty's visit.

MARRIAGE OF THE DUKE OF MALAKHOFF.—The marriage contract between the Duke of Malakoff and Madlle. Sofia Valera de la Paniega was signed at nine o'clock, on Monday evening, at Madame de Montijo's house, in the Champs Elysées. Nearly two hundred persons were present on the occasion. The witnesses for the Duke of Malakoff were Marshal Vaillant, the Minister at War, and Count Walewski; and for Madlle. Paniega, the Marquis de Casaniera and M. Fould. The civil marriage took place at noon, on Tuesday, at the mairie of the 1st arrondissement. The religious ceremony was performed at nine o'clock in the evening in the Imperial Chapel of St. Cloud, in the presence of the Emperor and Empress.

THE DISPUTE BETWEEN FRANCE AND PORTUGAL.—The Portuguese authorities in one of the ports of the Mozambique recently seized a French ship, the *Charles* and *Georges*, said to have been hunting slaves in that region. The ship is now in the Tagus. It has been condemned as a prize. The French Government demands restitution and compensation, and supports the demand by sending two ships of the line to the Tagus. The French Government denies that the ship was engaged in the slave trade, but that she was merely engaged to convey free labourers to the Isle La Reunion. They also maintain as a principle, which cannot and must not be called in question by any foreign government, that the presence of a French delegate on board a French merchant vessel is a guarantee that the occupation of the ship is a lawful one; and that consequently such ship cannot be visited, overhauled, and much less seized. They allege that in the present instance, the blacks who were on board were labourers who had engaged of their own free will to proceed to La Reunion, under regular passports furnished by the authorities at Mozambique. Now let us hear the other side. It is certain that the *Charles* and *Georges* was found in a place interdicted to general commerce—known and admitted to be so interdicted, 110 negroes were found on board. On these unfortunate creatures being interrogated, they (we hear) declared that they were taken from Mozambique against their will. The delegate and captain were then asked to exhibit the passports alleged to be given by the authorities at Mozambique, who had received the usual fees, as it was manifestly a breach of duty on the part of Portuguese authorities to deliver passports or permit to a ship found hiring labourers in an interdicted port. When the document was produced it proved to be merely a pass, not issued by any Portuguese authority whatever, but by the sheik or chief of a savage tribe, who probably was himself the purveyor of this merchandise. It is thought that the affair will be amicably arranged, after all.

THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.—The *Teazer*, from the West Coast of Africa reports that there is little prospect of suppressing the traffic in slaves by the present mode. At Whydah the King of Dahomey will not sell them under 50 or 60 dols. each, but at Cabenda, where the nearest relatives freely offer each other, the price ranges from 15 to 30 dols. only. The number kept ready for sale along the coast causes such a great consumption of nuts that very little export of oil can take place. The dealers calculate that the successful transmission of one cargo of negroes will pay for the loss of four. No prizes had been taken lately; the last captured, the *Ville de Paris*, by the sloop *Heron*, 12, Commander W. H. Truscott, was conveyed to St. Helena, which is to be the Admiralty depot for the future. The *Teazer* had taken altogether three prizes. She chased the schooner *James Buchanan*, 142 tons, for eighteen hours, over a course of 125 miles, without success, but subsequently in May, 1858, caught her owner, who had expended his profits in the General Scott, which had no slaves, but dollars to the value of £1,812 for purchasing them.

FEARFUL BALLOON VOYAGE.—The "Toronto Globe," of September the 27th, contains the following account of a fearful balloon ascent:—"A gloom is suddenly thrown over the sympathising public by a sad termination to the balloon ascension at Adrian yesterday. The balloon, with Messrs. Bannister and Thurston in the car, rose from the enclosure at about half-past eight o'clock. It went up steadily and beautifully, and soon became lost to sight. After the aeronauts had been up a sufficient length of time, they let the gas escape slowly, and made a handsome descent near Knight's Station, a few miles from Sullivan. The aeronauts stepped from the car, and proceeded to unfasten it, and to remove the netting from the balloon, which gradually turned over, resting with the neck upward. Mr. Thurston got astride of the main valve, a circular wooden box or frame fixed in the top of the gas sack (which was very large, containing 25,000 cubic feet of gas), and forced back the valve, which opened inward, at the same time requesting Mr. Bannister to untie the neck of the bag. Bannister, who was busy with the netting, neglected to do so. The moment the netting was off, the sack suddenly rose; Mr. Thurston still clinging to the valve. Mr. Bannister instantly grasped for the ascending balloon, but Thurston exclaimed: 'Hold on, Bannister, she will soon come down again;' for he supposed that his companion had untied the neck of the sack, which would, of course, soon relieve it of gas; but he was doomed to a terrible disappointment. Up and up the balloon ascended, and when last seen by the horrified Bannister was full two miles high, and sailing rapidly to the northward." The balloon valve on which Thurston sat was torn out from the silk of the balloon three-quarters of the way around, indicating that the weight of the unfortunate man was too great for the strength of the sides, and that the silk gave way, when he must have dropped off. The balloon itself was afterwards found, but not the balloonist.

PRUSSIC ACID.—With a view to complete the theory of anesthetics, M. Ozanam some time ago instituted a series of experiments on prussic, or hydrocyanic, acid in a gaseous state, the results of which he has now laid before the Academy of Sciences. His chief object was the demonstration of this general law—viz., that all volatile or gaseous matter having carbon for one of its constituents, has anesthetic properties in proportion to the carbon it contains, and this law is verified in the highest degree by hydrocyanic acid. In its most concentrated state death, of course, is instantaneous, but when diluted in the ratios of 1 to 16, 1 to 20, 1 to 40, or one to 100, its effects are of various intensity. The temperature must be taken into account, since prussic acid boils at 80.6 Fahrenheit, and emits vapours in proportion to the heat of the weather. M. Ozanam's experiments were therefore conducted under temperatures of between 41 and 50 Fahrenheit. If attenuated to 1-40th, hydrocyanic acid produces, when inhaled, much the same degree of anesthesia as oxide of carbon, and at 1-100th that of carbonic acid; but this state cannot be prolonged, as in the case of the latter—the inhalation must be stopped the moment the first signs of the action of the acid appear. The animal being then left to itself, the three stages of anesthesia—viz., excitation, collapse, and a return to consciousness, succeed each other as usual. But if the inhalations be continued to the second period of coma, death is the inevitable consequence. The stage of excitement is marked by such violent tetanic shocks that the animal is often projected to a distance of several feet; the heart beats with great rapidity, and respiration is interrupted by muscular contractions. This state lasts from 30 to 60 seconds, when the collapse commences; the eyeballs are rapidly dilated, the eyes protrude from their sockets, and all the members are paralysed. But while sharp instruments and hard blows are unavailing to rouse the animal from its state of insensibility, a slight shock is often sufficient to cause a renewal of the convulsions. During this period the action of breathing only manifests itself by hiccup at long intervals; the pulsations of the heart are rare and weak. By degrees, if too large a quantity of the acid has not been inhaled, the circulation becomes more regular, and there only remains an anesthetic slumber, which lasts from five to fifteen minutes. After this there is a slow return to sensibility; the animal begins to move its fore legs first and its hind legs afterwards, and about twenty-five minutes after the commencement of the experiment it returns to its previous normal state. When death has been produced by excessive inhalation, the blood, on opening the body, is found to be black, but it soon turns red again in the air. The smell of bitter almonds, which the body at first exhales, disappears in a short time, and no trace of the acid can be discovered by any test. Prussic acid would therefore be the only poison producing death without being traceable, were it not that the microscope shows the primitive nervous tubes broken in various places. Sometimes, also, the larynx and trachea are slightly inflamed. M. Ozanam concludes his paper by stating that oxygen is an effectual antidote against prussic acid. Until respiration is entirely stopped, oxygen may be successfully administered by inhalation, but it must be administered for ten or twelve minutes at least.

THE LOSS OF THE AUSTRIA.

ABOUT a year ago, the *Central America*, with some hundreds of passengers and a valuable specie-freight and cargo, was lost; two years before then at the same time of the year—almost the same day of the month—the loss of the *Arcle* occurred; and now the anniversary is observed by the destruction of the *Austria*, and the loss of nearly or quite 500 lives. This vessel was built in the Clyde last year, to serve as one of the new line of propellers between Hamburg and New York. She was about 2,500 tons burden, and was fitted with everything which the latest discoveries and improvements in steam navigation render necessary. When about half way over, on the 13th inst., the boatswain was directed to superintend the fumigation of the steerage, by burning tar with a hot iron. It appears, however, that in performing this operation the iron became heated too hot for the boatswain to hold it. He dropped it, and in doing so upset the pail of tar. In an instant the whole of that part of the vessel—the steerage—was in a sheet of flame. The ship was instantly put at half-speed, at which she continued until the magazine exploded. The engineers, some say, were instantly suffocated. Fire was next seen breaking through the lights amidships, and travelled aft with fearful rapidity. Some persons let down a boat from the port side of the quarter-deck, which was thought to be crushed under the screw. An attempt was made to launch a boat on the starboard side, but it was swamped from the numbers who rushed into it, and all were lost. All the first cabin passengers were on the poop, except a few gentlemen, who must have been smothered in the smoking-room. Many second cabin passengers were also on the poop, but a number of them got shut into the cabin by fire. Some of them were pulled up through the ventilator, but the greater number could not be extricated. The last woman drawn up said there were six already suffocated. The ladies and gentlemen on the poop jumped into the sea by twos and threes, some of the ladies in flames. Several hesitated, but were driven to it at the last moment. In half an hour not a soul was to be seen on the poop. The French barque, *Maurice*, Captain Ernest Renaud, came alongside the steamer at about five o'clock p.m., and rescued forty passengers, chiefly taken off the bowsprit. A few were picked up floating about. At about eight o'clock one of the "metallic boats" came up, with about twenty-three persons in it, including the first and third officers. Afterwards three or four men were picked up floating on a piece of a broken boat. The second officer was taken up, having been swimming for six hours. He and the third officer were severely burnt. One male passenger was burnt frightfully and others slightly. There were but six women saved, three of whom were burnt. A Norwegian barque was afterwards seen hovering round the ruined ship.

Several of the rescued passengers have sent narratives of the calamity to the New York journals. One of these, written by Mr. Brew, an Englishman, is as follows:—

MR. BREW'S ACCOUNT.

"I took passage at Southampton on the 4th, in the steam-ship *Austria*, Captain Heydtmann, which left Hamburg on the 2nd. From the time the ship was laid on her course, we experienced strong westerly winds. On the 12th the weather was more favourable, and on the 13th a speed of eleven knots had been attained, and all were in high hopes of reaching New York by the 18th. At a little after two o'clock p.m., I was on the quarter-deck. I saw a dense volume of smoke burst from the after-entrance of the steerage. Some women ran aft, exclaiming, 'The ship is on fire—what will become of us?' The ship was instantly put at half-speed, at which she continued until the magazine exploded, from which I infer the engineers were instantly suffocated. I only walked from where I was on the quarter-deck to the waist of the ship, when I saw the flames breaking through the lights amidships. As the ship was head to the wind, the fire travelled with fearful rapidity. I then went to the man at the wheel, and told him to put the vessel with her side to the wind. He hesitated—probably did not understand me, as he was a native of Hamburg. I then got a German gentleman to speak to him. At this time I saw some persons letting down the boat on the port side of the quarter-deck. What became of the boat I don't know, but think she was crushed under the screw. I then went to let a boat over from the starboard side of the quarter-deck, but the moment we laid our hands on the ropes, there were so many people who crowded into it, that we could not lift it off the blocks. We, therefore, left it for a few minutes, until the people got out, when we returned, and launched it over the side of the ship, when the people all rushing into it again, it descended with great violence into the water, and was instantly swamped, all the people being washed out excepting three, who held on to the sides. We then let down a rope and pulled up one person, who proved to be the steward. Another, in the act of being hauled up, was strangled by the rope. The fire now came on too fiercely to attempt to get up any more from the swamped boat. All the first cabin passengers were on the poop, with the exception of a few gentlemen, who must have been smothered in the smoking-room. Many of the second-cabin passengers were also on the poop, but a number of them got shut into their cabin by the fire. Some of them were pulled up through the ventilator, but the greater number could not be extricated. The last woman who was drawn up said there were six already suffocated. We now perceived that the ship had got her head to the wind again, so that the flames came over the quarter-deck. In consequence of the crowd, I could not get to the wheel-house to ascertain the reason, but I was informed that the helmsman had deserted his post, and that the vessel, being left to herself, headed to the wind of her own accord.

"At this time the scene on the quarter-deck was indescribable and truly heart-rending. Passengers were rushing frantically to and fro—husbands seeking their wives, wives in search of their husbands, relatives looking after relatives, mothers lamenting the loss of their children, some wholly paralysed by fear, others madly crying to be saved; but a few perfectly calm and collected. The flames pressed so closely upon them that many jumped into the sea. Relatives, clasped in each other's arms, leaped over and met a watery grave; two girls, supposed to be sisters, jumped over, and sank kissing each other. A missionary and wife leaped into the sea together, and the steward and assistant-steward, arm in arm, followed. One Hungarian gentleman, with seven fine children, four of them girls, made his wife jump in, then blessed his six eldest children, made them jump in one after the other, and followed them with an infant in his own arms. I, about this time, was standing outside the bulwarks, holding on by the davits, leaning out to avoid the flames, which were leaping towards me. I saw a swamped boat under me, spinning by a rope still attached to the ship. As the oars were tied in her I thought, if I could get to her, I would be enabled to save myself and some others. I let myself down by a rope passing over a man who was clinging to it, but who refused to come with me. I took out a penknife to cut the tackle; the large blade broke, and I then severed it with the small blade. The ship passed ahead. As the screw approached I found the boat drawn towards it. I tried to keep the boat off, but the screw caught and capsize her over me. I dived away from the ship, and came to the surface near a boat which was keel upwards. I got on her, and by pressing on one side with the assistance of a wave she righted, but was still swamped. The oars had been knocked out by the screw. The only thing I could find in her to paddle with was some laths nailed together as a sheathing for the sides.

"When I looked around, the ship was a quarter of a mile away from me. I could see ladies and gentlemen jumping off the poop into the water in twos and threes, some of the ladies in flames. Several hesitated to leap from the burning ship until the last moment, as the height was twenty-two feet, and were only at length compelled to throw themselves off to avoid a more painful death. In half-an-hour not a soul was to be seen on the poop. I pulled after the ship, and picked up a German, who was swimming strongly; I got him beside me on the boat, and we paddled after the ship with the laths; I now saw a vessel under sail approaching; she reached the steamer at about five p.m.; we continued pulling towards them, and about half-past seven o'clock, after being five hours in the water, got within hail of the sailing vessel, which put off

a boat and took us on board. She proved to be the French barque, *Maurice*, Captain Ernest Renaud, of Nantes, bound from Newfoundland for the Isle of Bourbon, with fish. She had, up to that time, rescued forty passengers of the burning steamer, chiefly taken off the bowsprit, though a few were picked up floating around. At about eight o'clock one of the metallic boats came up, with about twenty-three persons in it, including the first and third officers; afterwards three or four men were picked up, floating on a piece of the broken boat. The second officer was taken up, having been swimming with nothing to float him for six hours. The second and third officers were severely burnt, and a male passenger was burnt frightfully, and some other male passengers slightly. There were but six women saved, three of whom were burnt, one in a shocking manner. Captain Renaud acted with the utmost kindness. I did not see an officer of the ship during the fire, and, as far as there was not one of them or the crew on the poop, except a man at the wheel for a short time. I understood that when the captain heard of the fire he rushed on deck, without a cap, and when he saw the flames, exclaimed: 'We are all lost!' He tried to get out a boat, which when let down was swamped, and he, whether accidentally or not I do not know, fell into the sea, and was soon left far behind. The fourth officer was in the boat. He cut her loose from the davits, she was carried under the screw and smashed, and several in her drowned. Three or four then escaped on a fragment, and were picked up by the *Maurice*, as before stated. About the same time one metallic lifeboat was let down from the port bow and swamped, but got away with about thirty-three persons in her, including the first and third officers and several women. The men in this boat capsize her two or three times in trying to clear her of water. Ten persons were thus drowned, including some women. They afterwards laboured out with life-preservers cut in two, and pulled to the *Maurice*, having picked up two or three passengers before reaching the barque. Altogether there were sixty-seven souls taken into the *Maurice* during the night.

"A Norwegian barque came up with the steamer the next morning and a boat was observed going round the burning ship. They may have picked up a few persons, but only a very few. The *Maurice* had no communication with the Norwegian. At about seven o'clock, the *Maurice* sailed for Fayal, to deposit the rescued passengers. The same afternoon she fell in with the barque *Lotus*, of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, from Liverpool for Halifax. The fire is known to have arisen from culpable negligence of some of the crew. The captain and surgeon considered it expedient to fumigate the steerage with burning tar. The operation was to be performed by the boatswain, under the superintendence of the fourth officer. The boatswain heated the end of a chain to dip in tar to produce smoke. The end became too hot to hold, and he let it drop upon the deck, to which it set fire. The tar upset, and was immediately all about was in flames. A feeble attempt was made to extinguish it, but without effect. There was nothing at hand to meet such an emergency. The rescued passengers saved nothing but the clothes on their backs, and even the greater part of these were torn off and otherwise lost. 600 souls were supposed to be on board, including men, women and children."

Mr. Brew was on his way to organise a constabulary police in the newly-formed province of British Columbia, and was proceeding there. We append a list of lost Atlantic steamers:—*President*, never heard of; *Columbia*, all hands saved; *Unadelt*, all hands saved; *City of Glasgow*, never heard of; *City of Philadelphia*, all hands saved; *Frederick*, all hands saved; *Arctic*, 522 lost, 67 saved; *Arcturion*, 114 lost, 16 saved; *Tamworth*, never heard of; *San Francisco*, 210 lost, 460 saved; *Central America*, 422 lost, 60 saved; *Austria*, 530 lost, 67 saved. It will be seen by this list, that the loss of life in the *Austria* has been greater than in any of the other steamers lost in the Atlantic Ocean.

DISASTERS AT SEA.

From Penzance, Maryport, Deal, Harwich, Berwick, Holyhead, Peterhead, Whitby, Falmouth, Hartlepool, Shields, Thurso, Lowestoft, and other places, we have a melancholy catalogue of wrecks—for the most part, of coasting vessels. These disasters occurred on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of last week, when there was a heavy gale of wind from south-west and west. Off Lowestoft, the Tuscan bark *Zemira*, with a crew of twelve hands, and an English pilot, was proceeding through the South Roads, when she struck the Newcome Sand, and in twenty minutes was broken up, while her crew was drifting down the roadstead on spars and pieces of wreck. The life-boat was got out, and gallantly manned; the exertions of her crew being rewarded by saving the lives of eight men. Five, including the captain and the pilot, were lost.

During the gale of Thursday last the whole of the tents of the encampment belonging to the Pembroke garrison at Freshwater East were blown down. Both officers and men were exposed to the heavy rain which fell at the time, and were so completely drenched that they were ordered into garrison early next morning.

THE AUSTRALIAN MAELS.—The Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Company have obtained the contract for the Australian mail service. The passage between Southampton and Sydney is to be performed in fifty-five days, while the time allowed for the route via Marseilles is fifty days. The amount of the subsidy will probably be about the same as that agreed upon with the European and Australian Royal Mail Company, the affairs of which are now being wound up—viz., about £185,000 per annum. The new monthly service will commence on the 12th of March from Southampton, so that the first outward mail will be due at Melbourne on the 5th of May. The first homeward mail under the new contract will leave Sydney on the 15th of February, and will be due at Suez on the 28th of March.

WHAT IS A MILLION?—Now that China is made a free citizen of the world, and we are told that her 300,000,000 of human beings are open to intercommunication with ourselves; now that London can boast her 2,500,000 of inhabitants; now that remains of millions of animals are calculated to be impacted together within a cubic inch of some of the commonest rocks of our globe; now that Mr. Hind informs us that the comet approached within 51,000,000 of miles (that is, about half the distance between us and the sun); now that we are instructed that the denizens of the Wilky Way are distant from us billions and trillions and quadrillions of leagues, in comparison with which sums the million shrinks to a unit, it may be well to pause and answer the question for ourselves of what is that unit—what is a million? We say "pause," because the word becomes so familiar to us through frequent use, especially in relation to celestial computations, that one might almost expect to hear it applied as a term of moderation—"Only a million!" Are we not apt to use it, without realising it? The argumentum ad hominem is a great elucidation. Let us apply it in the present instance. A man who lives a hundred years does not live a million hours!—Builder.

COLONEL W. L. FREESTON ON CHERBOURG.—At the anniversary of the Weymouth Literary and Scientific Institution, last week, Colonel W. L. Freeston said—I was at Cherbourg during the recent fêtes, and while there I saw everything; but I need not name particularly what I saw. Certainly I did not see with the same eyes that others did. Cherbourg is a very large place, as you have heard; it has immense arsenals; it has a very magnificent breakwater, but which is after all not a place of refuge. Ships may go there, but there is no chance of their getting any shelter; for the coast is so dangerous, that before they get inside the breakwater, there is every possibility of their going ashore, especially with the wind blowing from the eastward. It has been stated that, by having that place, France has the means of menacing England. The Emperor of the French never had an idea of the kind. On the contrary, I believe him to be most amicably disposed, and to entertain honest intentions towards us. He may have a fleet assembled there, but I believe we have an equally strong one, that we can, if necessary, bring against anything that may be brought against us. Has it never occurred to those two honourable gentlemen who have alluded to this subject—I refer to the Honourable Member for Sheffield and the Honourable Member for North Shields—as it has very forcibly occurred to me, that our ally may have in Cherbourg a place to which he can retire, in the event of any little revolution? Is a military man, must say, that one thing particularly arrested my attention, and that was, that all the defences on the land side are as strong as those on the sea side. The Emperor has a large army. He might take them to Cherbourg, and ensconce himself and them comfortably within its walls, wait until the little breeze blows over; he can then go back again, and say, "Here I am again, perfectly prepared to resume the war to think France is I am sure are not to be envied. It is a perfect farce to think France is menacing England; it is a mere chimera. France has no idea of the sort. Some few wild spirits, and some few disaffected ones, may, I grant you, think so; but we shall be perfectly prepared, and surely our having had the hint has done us no harm."

IRELAND.

GAWAY AS A PACKET STATION.—Gaway is in favour of the Vice-regal Lodge. At a meeting of the Harbour Commissioners last week a letter was received from "Francis Plunkett Dunne," Vice-regal Lodge, to Father Daly, expressing an opinion that the advantages of the Irish passage over that from Liverpool, have now been made plain "even to English understanding." "You will perceive," he adds, "by the papers that Lord Eglintoun is successful in having the Commissioners sent to Gaway, and we are all anxious that their report will be favourable, and we shall see the line of packets from thence firmly established." A deputation from the Atlantic Mail Steam Navigation Company, headed by Lord Bury, waited on the Secretary of the Treasury on Thursday week. The deputation was very favourable to the interest of the new line of steamers between Gaway and the British North American colonies established by Mr. Lever. A grand entertainment was given on Monday night by the Gaway and American Royal Mail Steam Company, on board their fine ship the Pacific, in Gaway Bay, a distinguished party, among whom were Lord Bury and Mr. Roebuck, M.P. Mr. Lever himself gave a denial to the report of a rival line between Foyne and America being contemplated; but we learn that a meeting has been held at Limerick, with a view to a Transatlantic packet station at Foyne, which is a very eligible and desirable situation on the Shannon. Steps have been taken to obtain the opinion of the Harbour of Foyne Commissioners, and committees have been formed to secure information.

SCOTLAND.

THE WESTERN BANK.—An important step has been taken by the Committee of shareholders of the Western Bank of Scotland. They have resolved to institute, not a criminal prosecution of the directors, but to bring a civil suit against them for reimbursement of the calls, made and to be made, and for the amount of the lost shares; and they have invited the general body of the shareholders to co-operate. The gentlemen thus menaced are those who were in the direction in June, 1857, five months before the bank closed, and when, the bank being then quite insolvent, they declared a dividend of nine per cent. The second call of £100 per share has fallen heavily on the contributors, some of whom have succumbed, adding bankruptcy to bankruptcy. One family, the Bairds of Gartshore, has paid the full amount of the call on the shares held by them. It amounted to £188,600!

A BABY FOR FIVE SHILLINGS.—At the Glasgow Circuit Court, a young woman, named Margaret Bennet or Lovell, pleaded guilty to fraud on a registrar, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. It appears that the unfortunate woman's lover had shown symptoms of coolness, and she conceived that if she could present to him a child as his own, she would have a better hold upon his feelings. She accordingly went to Edinburgh and commenced operations at the Maternity Hospital there, by offering £50 for a decent-looking baby—a boy preferred. The superintendent rejected the overture with indignation. By and by, however, Margaret Bennet discovered that there was a poor woman in the hospital who had the very article she was in want of, and did not well know what to do with it. As the woman was anxious to get rid of an infant, and the other equally anxious to obtain one, a bargain was struck, and for the sum of five shillings the child was transferred to the purchaser from Glasgow. This poor infant figured twice in the books of the Hutechesonstown registrar, and each time in a false name. It is now in charge of one of the Glasgow parochial boards, and nobody knows to whom it really belongs.

A BRAVE WOMAN.—Late a boat returning from Mid Yell, Zetland, where she had delivered herrings, was upset off Burraness, North Yell. The crew got on the keel, and the boat was driven on shore on the rocks. A woman named May Stout Hecterson was lowered down over the cliff at great risk of life, and got a rope thrown to the crew, which was the means of saving their lives.

THE PROVINCES.

ABOLITION OF A MAYOR'S SALARY.—At a meeting of the Town Council of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, it was resolved by a large majority to abolish the Mayor's salary, which ever since the foundation of the corporation has been regularly paid. The nominal amount of the salary is £750, but it generally reaches £900 or £1,000; this is to be entirely done away with in future, and instead the "legitimate expenses" of the Mayor are to be allowed. It is worth of note that only three other towns in addition to Newcastle pay their Mayors.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTES AT WORCESTER.—Among the meetings held last week, one is especially noteworthy; it took place at Worcester, on Wednesday evening, and the occasion was the celebration of the union of fourteen Mechanics' Institutes around Worcester. The scheme of this union, which promises many advantages, was set on foot some months since by Mr. J. S. Pakington, a son of the First Lord of the Admiralty, and the meeting was addressed by Sir John Pakington. His views on the subject of popular education are well known, and his speech at Worcester contained nothing very new in the way of argument or illustration; but it was an earnest recognition of the duties of all "as citizens, as philanthropists, and as politicians, to promote education and the general diffusion of knowledge" as a security against the headstrong passions and prejudices of ignorance—the true "root of all evil."

COST OF TEN YEARS' LITIGATION.—Nearly ten years ago, a gentleman named Hartley died, and bequeathed, by will, upwards of £100,000 to the corporation of Southampton, to be expended in measures to promote the intellectual improvement of the inhabitants of that town. The will was disputed by distant and dubious relatives of the testator, and litigation has been going on up to the present time in the Court of Chancery. It has ended in a compromise, at the recommendation of the counsel engaged on both sides, and the litigants have withdrawn their claims for £22,500, thus leaving about £78,000 for the corporation; out of that sum, however, the law costs have to be deducted, amounting to nearly £35,000, and the legacy duty, amounting to nearly £4,500, so that all that remains to carry out the dying wish of the testator is £39,780. The cost of taxing, that is reducing the law charges, was nearly £1,000.

BARNUM ON MONEY MAKING.—At Manchester on Saturday, Mr. Barnum delivered a lecture on the shortest and surest way of making a fortune. Of course there was a large audience to hear the opinion of a master in the art. He began by saying that money getting was one of the most useful, and consequently one of the most honourable, of all occupations—the parent of civilization, and of innumerable blessings to mankind. The greatest and wisest of men in all ages, from Abraham, the first merchant on record, down to the present day, were almost invariably distinguished for their knowledge and their skilful practice of the art of making and of keeping money. As a striking instance of this fact, he referred to Shakespeare, whom he described as being, par excellence, a clever and thrifty showman, whose highest aim was to hit the popular taste, to write such plays as would draw the best houses, and so to put money in his purse—a description of the immortal bard which seemed to take the audience somewhat by surprise, and to find but little favour in their sight. Besides Shakespeare, Chaucer and Scott, on this side of the Atlantic, and Prescott, Bancroft, and Irving, on the other, were examples of men eminent at once in literature and in this most useful of arts. Marlborough and Wellington were almost as remarkable for their birth and economy as for their military genius, and had Washington not been in the greatest of patriot soldiers, he might have ranked high as a merchant or a millionaire. As there were three ways in which men might become great, so there were three ways in which they might become wealthy. Some men were born rich, some achieved riches, some had riches thrust upon them. He had only to speak of the way in which men might achieve riches, and he at once admitted that he had absolutely nothing to say on that point which was new. He could only repeat and urge once more the old and well-known rules of prudence and economy, illustrating those ancient laws wherever he could by modern instances. The lecturer proceeded in a very forcible manner to state and enforce those rules for making money which he considered most important, interspersing them with numerous amusing anecdotes, which were exceedingly well told and well received. The rules were such as the following:—Be honest; be prompt in making engagements, and exact in fulfilling them; persevere; advertise; tell no more about your business than is necessary; never pass a week-day without reading a good newspaper, and others equally true and equally sensible. Mr. Barnum concluded his remarks by any ingenious defence of humbug, which he defined to be the art of dressing up an object so as to render it attractive; of putting on glittering appearances for the sake of arresting attention. This was only deserving of blame when the article put forward was not what it professed to be. When the object offered for sale or for show was intrinsically good, it was allowable, he contended, to draw attention to it by every legitimate means; and on this principle he vindicated his own conduct, and maintained that he had acted towards the public in an honourable and straightforward manner.

THE WEST YORKSHIRE COLLIERIES.—The proprietors of the chief collieries in the Methley and Wakefield districts having resolved to close their pits until the men agree to accept a reduction of 15 per cent. upon their late rate of payment, most of the works were stopped on Thursday. Next day large meetings of colliers were held at Methley and at Hunslet Moor, when a series of resolutions were passed, expressive of the determination of the men not to submit to the reduction. It was stated that in the districts of Wakefield, Methley, and Leeds there were upwards of 2,000 men and about 500 boys out of employment. On Monday, a similar meeting was held on Woodhouse Moor, near Leeds.

THE DEAD BOATMEN.—The distressed condition of the Dead boatmen has lately attracted much sympathy; several gentlemen have been among them, and, struck by their destitution, are putting their case before the public. "At the present time," says Mr. Henry Kingscott, writing to the "Times," "floating on the Dead beach, between Kingsdown and Sandown, there are nearly 500 adults who have little other occupation than looking out for vessels in danger, or cast upon the Goodwin Sands. Obviously the number is wholly disproportionate to the need." His remedy is to separate the old from the young, aiding the latter to emigrate from a place where they cannot find employment, and furnishing a benefit society for the former. To effect these he invites the subscriptions of the public.

AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS. The Royal East Bucks Association, which has been in existence now about twenty years, has just held its annual exhibition of cattle and ploughing matches. A greater number of teams than in any past year entered for the ploughing. The show was necessarily limited for the district, but there were, nevertheless, some useful stock animals. His Royal Highness the Prince Consort obtained the prizes for the best fat cow, cow and calf, yearling bull, and heifer; Sir Gilbert East for the best fat cow; Baron Van de Weyer, the Belgian Minister, carried off the prizes for the best two-year-old cart colt, and sow and pigs (under ten weeks old); Mr. R. Palmer, M.P., was the successful exhibitor in the class for Down rams, four-tooth sheep, and fat porkers. Mr. James Sharp, of Remham, received the silver cup, of twenty-five guineas, offered by the Prince Consort for the best crop of Scotch turnips. The grim face of an awning "prizes" of £1 and £2 to labourers for long service, sobriety, and industry was repeated. The meeting of the South Bucks Association (held on Wednesday week) was also distinguished by this disgraceful ceremony.

ALLEGED MURDERER AT FRAMFIELD. Elizabeth Randall is said to have been killed by her husband, Cornelius Randall, the keeper of the Ramble Mow public-house, at Framfield, Sussex, where on inquest was held. Several witnesses deposed to a quarrel and a scuffle between the deceased and her husband, and a surgeon said that the immediate cause of death was an extravasation of blood on the brain, probably caused by a blow or a fall. Randall himself volunteered this statement:—"I am certain that if I ever did my wife any injury I did not intend doing so." The jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter.

LORD JOHN MANNERS ON THE TOPICS OF THE DAY.

In the middle of a speech on fox-hunting, single-stick and ploughshares, at an agricultural dinner at Waltham, Leicestershire, Lord John Manners has been the first gently to break the silence of Ministers on the subject of the promised Reform Bill. From his speech we learn that there is to be a bill, with a slight hint as to its spirit:—

"I have said that in the past session of Parliament there was not much to attract the attention of an agricultural assemblage. The future, of course, is dark, but at the same time it is more than probable that the question most likely to interest an agricultural assemblage in the next session of Parliament will be the much-discussed question of Parliamentary reform. Upon that question, of course, my lips are sealed, and I can only say, that by one of those curious turns of the wheel which mechanics modern politics, it seems to be reserved for a Tory Government to render less anomalous, and to make better adapted to the growing intelligence, property, and numbers of the community, the Whig Reform Act of 1832. I can only say, that her Majesty's Government will enter upon that most serious task with the single and earnest endeavour so to amend the representation of the people in Parliament as to secure the best electoral body and the best representative body which can be obtained for the people of this country. But, gentlemen, after all, hustings, registration courts, polling-booths, speeches from the hustings, and even speeches in Parliament, and divisions consequent thereupon, are only a means to an end, and that end is the good self-government of a Christian and a civilised community."

At the same meeting, Lord John and his brother, the Duke of Rutland, spoke on the relations with France and the best mode of treating the rustic population. Lord John said:—

"I hope in our zeal and our endeavours to promote the education of the intellect, we shall not altogether lose sight of the education of the bodies of the children of the labouring classes. I attach such importance to the manly and athletic games and pastimes which have heretofore characterised all classes of our English community, that I would say to all men, however wise, however stupid, however rich, however old, stimulate and foster every manly and athletic game, commencing from marbles and ascending up to fox-hunting; and if there be anything above and beyond fox-hunting, then teach the labouring classes that. Tend them religiously, and from the lowest and the humblest, up to the maturest and the highest of our national sports and pastimes, let us endeavour to promote them one and all. I say this, because I have noticed with pain and concern a heresy, as it seems to me, growing up and spreading in this country, the upshot of which will be that England will be divided into two great classes—those who spin and those who study. It is to promote some such consummation as this that we find that admirable speaker and sterling member of Parliament, Mr. Bright, recommending emigration to the whisky-drinking, joint-stock bank-breaking people of Glasgow; and we have the 'Times,' the great organ, as it is used to be called, of public opinion in England, warning all the noblemen of England out of the hunting field. As many present know, I am no great rider, and do not profess to give much time or attention to hunting, but this I do know, that I never rog home after a day's hunting without feeling that I have seen or heard something which has added somewhat to my small stock of knowledge, and without rejoicing as a politician—of course I do not use the term in a party sense—in the existence of that manly and invigorating pastime. Then, gentlemen, say I, long may there be a race of yeomen in England, who, like my friends the Guys of Hatton, the Vincents of Botsford, or the Blands of Marlborough, can carry off the prize in the cattle showyard and the brush at the head of the hunt."

The Duke of Rutland went to Cherbourg, and saw the "magnificent spectacle" there presented; but it did not fill him with alarm. He desires to see our establishments properly kept up, but he believes the French Emperor to be perfectly honest when he says that he wishes to cultivate the alliance with this country. Lord John Manners is of the same opinion, and gave an odd reason for the faith that is in him:—

"So far from seeing in the erection of the great works at Cherbourg any proof of ill-will towards England, or any sign of impending hostility, I am myself disposed to see in the cordiality, frankness, and openness with which all the works were submitted to the inspection of the whole people of England, had they been disposed or able to go thither—I am disposed to see in these great works a pledge rather for future peace, inasmuch as they afford, on the one side (with the proper preparations which this country and her Majesty's Government may take on the other), a natural means of defence from hostile aggression, and thus give a pledge and security for future peace."

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

Mr. N. C. Bond, formerly a spirit-merchant in Liverpool, resides at Richmond Grove, Forton, near Garstang. His household consisted of his wife, Robert, their only son, a young man, and a woman servant. The son had for some time past led a dissipated life, and had been much addicted to drinking. He is said to have been a person of considerable educational attainments, and during his short career (he was only twenty-five years of age) he visited Australia, America, and other countries. Adjoining the house lived Miss Wainman, aged nineteen, with three brothers, their father and mother being dead. Robert Bond entertained feelings of affection for Miss Wainman, but she rejected his advances.

One day, Mr. and Mrs. Bond went to Liverpool, on a visit, leaving their son and the servant in the house; and during their absence Robert Bond got at the brandy, drank to excess, and excited such alarm by his conduct that a note was sent to his father requesting him to return. He was seen with a loaded gun in his hand, and one of the brothers of Miss Wainman contrived to obtain possession of it, discovering it under a sofa in the house of Mr. Bond. Robert, missing the weapon some time afterwards, demanded that it should be returned to him, but the persons then in Wainman's house (Miss Wainman and a housekeeper) refused to comply with his request. He uttered a sort of half-menace, and went away, saying that he had another gun.

A little before ten o'clock on Wednesday week the murderer appeared at the back door of his father's house, with a single-barrelled gun in his hand, and, as it proved, loaded. Mr. Bond's woman-servant, and the housekeeper at Wainman's, ran away screaming from the house towards the garden. He allowed them to pass, but the moment that Miss Wainman appeared at the door, levelled the piece, fired, and discharged the contents into the right side of her head and neck. One of her brothers, who was near, hearing the report of the gun, hastened to the spot, and raised an alarm. At first, however, nobody ventured to enter Mr. Bond's house, whither the murderer had retired. About six minutes after the first report of the gun, a second was heard, and on looking through the drawing-room window, the murderer was seen seated upon a chair, with the gun still in his hands, and his head dreadfully shattered. He had reloaded the gun, and, after seating himself, placed it between his knees, the muzzle in his mouth, and pulled the trigger with the tongue, which was found still in his hand. He was, of course, quite dead. The poor girl lingered in great agony for nearly an hour, when she died. These circumstances being sworn to before a coroner, a verdict of "Temporary insanity" was returned.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE.

This Association held its annual meeting this year at Liverpool. A very influential body of gentlemen took part in the proceedings—among them the Earl of Carlisle, the Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord Brougham, Sir J. Pakington, Lord Goderich, Lord Sandon, Lord Elington, Sir James Stephen, K.C.B., Mr. R. M. Milnes, M.P.; the Bishops of Chester, Manchester, and Pennsylvania; Sir A. Elton, M.P.; Mr. S. Whitbread, M.P.; Mr. T. Barnard, M.P.; the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, Mr. E. Akroyd, M.P.; the Hon. and Rev. W. H. Lyttelton, the Rev. Canon Girdlestone, Mr. Serjeant Woolrych, Mr. Horace Mann, Mr. Jellinger Symons, Professor Pillans, Mr. H. J. Smith, Rev. Dr. Begg, Sir C. H. Hastings, Rev. J. G. Lonsdale, Rev. D. Melville, Mr. Garnett, M.P.; Mr. Ayrton, M.P.; Mr. Adderley, M.P., and Archdeacon Allen. Lord John Russell was President.

The objects of the society are well known. Its business is divided into five departments:—1. Jurisprudence and Amendment of the Law; 2. Education; 3. Punishment and Reformation; 4. Public Health; 5. Social Economy. On these subjects, papers, chiefly valuable for useful investigation and statistical facts, are read, discussed in council, and reported.

The business of the association was commenced on Monday evening, when the general meeting was held in St. George's Hall, the inaugural address being delivered by Lord John Russell, the president. Touching on the first section, a department of inquiry, he said:—

"Five years ago the enactment of a code was held out to our expectations; each year we were said to be at the beginning of the beginning; three Administrations, and four sessions of Parliament, have promised, undertaken, and dropped the work. Is it not time that we should set about the task in earnest? I will venture to say that if four or five persons of competent qualification were appointed as commissioners, they would, in a few months, make an actual commencement, and in a few years present to Parliament a complete code, worthy of the country, simplifying and improving our laws, on principles fit to be adopted in an enlightened age, and founded on the solid masonry of our ancient legislation."

His Lordship next touched upon the revision of the criminal law, remarking that "the treatment of a criminal is not very different from the treatment of a patient attacked by fever. The first object is to subdue the fever; the next is, by strengthening diet, to raise the system again to a condition of sound health." With regard to education, the Noble Lord renounced any desire to establish in this country the system of France, Austria, or Prussia; opinion was still "in the gristle" upon this subject. Upon the impartial display of facts by the royal commission now sitting, Parliament and the nation would decide.

Lord John then entered upon the topic of public health. Quoting various statements from the Registrar-General's reports, he mentioned conspicuous instances of the good effects of sanitary measures—for instance:—

"A London water company distributed in 1818 very foul water. In the cholera epidemic of 1818-9, there died 1,925 of those who received their supplies of water from this company. Between 1818 and 1853, the company improved the quality of their water. In the cholera epidemic of 1853-4, the number of their customers who died was reduced to 611, or less than one-third of the former mortality. In the meantime, another water company supplied water still fouler than at the former period, and the mortality of those who used their water was increased from 2,880 in 1818 to 3,476 in 1853; so that while the proportions in 10,000 persons in 1818 were 118 and 123 respectively, those proportions were changed in 1853; the former rose from 118 to 130, and the latter sunk from 123 to 37. Nor can it be doubted that while such are the consequences in cases of increased and unusual mortality, the evils which occur daily and yearly from the same causes are no less remarkable though less remarked."

Proceeding to the fifth and last department, his Lordship particularly urged the consideration of the subject of emigration. Speaking of Ireland in this connection, he said, "My belief is, that by a strict administration of justice, as great a change for the better will take place in Ireland, as took place in Scotland between the accession of William III. and the close of the following century."

On Tuesday morning the opening addresses of the Presidents of Departments were delivered in the Concert Room, St. George's Hall, to a crowded audience.

Before the commencement of the business for which the meeting was convened, Lord Brougham offered some general remarks upon periodical literature. The Noble Lord traced the progress of periodical literature from the "Penny Magazine," which was addressed to that class who have but little spare time for reading, with a view to prevent a less profitable employment of their leisure. Referring to the penny periodicals now existing—the "London Journal," "Cassell's Family Paper," "Family Herald," "Welcome Guest," and others—his Lordship declared that they did a vast amount of good in educating and improving the minds of the working-classes. He said: "The tales composed for the working-men's hours of relaxation are of a kind that address themselves both to the understanding and the heart—at once giving lessons of instruction and fostering the kindly affections. Nor can anything be more groundless than the charges that have been brought against them." As for Pope's notion of a little knowledge being a dangerous thing, that he ridiculed. Said he—

"Better half a loaf than no bread" is the old English saying. 'All wrong,' say the objectors, 'a little food is a dangerous thing; rather starve than not have your fill.' 'Better be purblind than stone blind,' is the French saying. 'No,' cry the objectors, 'if you can't see quite clearly, what use is there in seeing at all?' 'In the country of the blind,' says the proverb, 'the one-eyed man is king.' Our objectors belonging to the people there would dethrone the monarch by putting out his eye. But they had better crush their blind brethren to restore their sight, and then his reign would cease at once without any act of violence, any coup d'état. Here is a well of precious water, and we have got a little of it in a tankard. 'What signifies,' say the objectors, 'such a paltry supply? It would not wet the lips of half a dozen of the hundreds who are athirst.' True, but it enables us to wet the sucker of the pump, instead of following their advice to leave it dry; and, having the handle, we use it to empty the well and satisfy all. A person gains some information, it may be only a little. Say the objectors 'he is superficial.' Would he be more profound if he knew nothing? The twilight is unsafe for his steps. Would he be more secure from slipping in the dark?"

The "Popular History of England" of Charles Knight, his Lordship highly praised, declaring that "nothing has ever appeared superior, if anything has been published equal, to the account of the state of commerce, government, and society at different periods." Alluding to the newspaper press, Lord Brougham observed that, "generally speaking, the traffic in slander had ceased; but while making this statement, he must except certain papers calling themselves religious, which still want purification from outrages against decorum, truth, and Christian charity." He also declared it to be his opinion that though the periodicals wholly and strictly religious do much good, "it is questionable if either the cause of religion or temperance gains so much by the publication of works confined to these subjects as by the judicious proceeding of writers avowedly upon other subjects making their works, whether of narrative, of fiction, or of discussion, the vehicle of those sound doctrines."

THE BISHOP OF EXETER AND CONSECRATION.—At Tiverton there is a new cemetery, so divided that the dust and ashes of Churchmen and Dissenters are prevented from commingling. The Bishop of Exeter went to Tiverton last week to consecrate that part of the ground set apart for Churchmen who die. His Lordship said he had delayed consecrating it until he could have a wall as high as four feet to separate it from the place where dead Dissenters lie. The Legislature, however, had decided that no wall was necessary; so the Bishop consented to the views of the Legislature, while regretting that the partition was not such an "unmistakable one" as could have been wished. "It is necessary," continued his Lordship, "that there should be a division, a palpable line of demarcation, in order that the Church might bury their dead apart from those who do not die within its pale."

COMING TO THE POINT.—At a meeting of the Hants and Wilts Education Society, held last week, the Dean of Salisbury said:—"What is the use of talking of the importance of giving intellectual culture to poor, ill-clad, half-starved, houseless men? It is simply a mockery. Above all let them attend to the important question of providing better dwellings for the labouring classes—dwellings fitted for human beings, and not where parents, sons, and daughters, are all huddled together in the same sleeping-room."

though not altogether so much so as one would suppose from its appearance. But though, probably, our readers may care little and have heard less about Saltash Proper, it is likely henceforth to receive a fair share of general attention, and we can safely say, to those who will journey down to see the bridge, that the viaduct requires indeed to be a fine one to attract their attention from the lovely scenery of the valley of the Tamar, which it crosses. The banks of this noble river narrow considerably as the steam reaches Saltash, and, hemmed in there to half a mile or so, suddenly widens out into as fine a sheet of water as any of its kind in the kingdom, its distant banks covered with cottages and fringed with undulating woodlands down to the very edge. Across this narrow part of the channel, where Saltash in picturesque dirt and disarray straggles up the banks on one side, and a steep hill covered with rock and rock-grown underwood forms the other, the viaduct stretches high in air.

The briefest general way of describing it is to say that it consists of nineteen spans or arches, seventeen of which are wider than the widest arches of Westminster Bridge, and two, resting on a single cast-iron pier of four columns in the centre of the river, span the whole stream at one gigantic leap of 910 feet, or a longer distance than the breadth of the Thames at Westminster. The total length of the structure from end to end is 2,240 feet—very nearly half a mile—and 300 feet longer than the entire stretch of the Britannia Bridge. The greatest width is only 30 feet at basement, its greatest height from foundation to summit no less than 260 feet, or 50 feet higher than the summit of the Monument. To cross the Tamar with one unsupported span nearly a quarter of a mile in length was of course impossible, and Mr. Brunel had not only to make his pier in the centre of the river, but, having no place to which to secure the tension chains on which the roadway hung, had also to contrive to make them in a manner perfectly self-supporting. For this the suspension chains hang down from the piers in a segment of a circle, and are bolted to the roadway, while above the roadway, so as to form the other segment of the circle, are two monstrous tubes of arched wrought iron, connected with the ends of the chains, and which precisely answer the purpose of metal bows. The tubes and tension chains being connected with iron trusses and both fastened to the roadway, the whole acts as a double bow. As the tension chains give under a strain they straighten down the bow above them, and so the ends of the chains are supported and kept in place, while the deflections of the tubes themselves in turn relieve the roadway.

The seventeen smaller spans, or arches if we may so call them, which lead from the hills at either side to the edge of the Tamar in the centre of the valley, were easily made, since they only consisted of double columns of masonry, with wrought-iron longitudinal beams of boiler-plate between them, for each side of the roadway. The two main stone piers, which at the water's edge on either side support the ends of the great spans crossing the river, are, of course, of a more solid kind, and well calculated to resist either thrust or tension. Each of these is of masonry 29 feet wide by 17 feet thick, and about 190 feet from foundation to summit. It is, however, on the great main pier, in the centre of the river, that all the strain and pressure comes, and nothing short of the solid rock would suffice for its foundation. To reach this, however, was a matter of no ordinary difficulty, as some 70 feet of water, with 20 feet of mud and concrete gravel, lay between Mr. Brunel and the stone on which he wished to build. A common cofferdam would be impossible in such a case, but by a novel application of the cofferdam principle the difficulty was overcome at last. An immense wrought-iron cylinder 37 feet in diameter, 100 feet high, and weighing 300 tons, was made and sunk exactly in the spot where the masonry was to rise. From this the water was pumped out and air forced in; the men descended, and, working at the bottom of the river, cleared away the mud and gravel till the rock was reached. Steam air-pumps were necessary to keep the men supplied, and, as a matter of course, they worked at a pressure of upwards of 35 lbs. to the inch. At first this affected them severely; many were seized with cramps, faintness, and insensibility, and one even died in a few minutes. But this was only at the beginning, and after a time forty labourers could remain at work at once in the huge diving apparatus with apparently very little inconvenience to themselves. It was, however, always unpleasant labour, and all were glad when the first great difficulty was overcome, and the solid column of granite built inside the cylinder rose at last above the water's edge.

On this noble pile of stone, springing many feet below the river's bed, the iron columns for the centre pier were raised. Until these ponderous masses were cast, metal columns of such gigantic dimensions were never dreamt of. There are four of them, octagon in shape, 10 feet in diameter, and 100 feet high. The four stand each about 10 feet apart from the other in the centre of the granite column, so as to form a square of about 30 feet, binding the four together in a handsome and massive lattice work of wrought iron to prevent any lateral movement. The weight of these columns is about 150 tons each. The way they were made was in 6-foot joints, each joint being cast in two separate pieces. The thickness of the metal is two inches, and inside each column is stayed and supported with massive ribs. When all the pieces of the four columns had been cast, each was planed down and fitted together with the neatness of joiner's work. Thus finished, all were sent off piecemeal to the centre pier, though not erected, as they could only be built up under the centre spans as the latter were gradually lifted to their places by hydraulic pressure in one gigantic piece, weighing some 1,200 tons. These two main spans or trusses consist each of a wrought iron arched tube with two double sets of tension chains attached to either end, which carry the road for the railway. These, as we have said, were put together at the river's bank, floated out to their place, and then raised in one mass. The process of raising them, for reasons we will mention, occupies some five or six months. The western span has been lifted to its place some time, the eastern is now in course of being raised, at the rate of six feet per week. Each wrought iron arched tube is elliptical in form, being 12 feet high by 17 feet wide, and is made throughout of inch boiler plate. Inside, at intervals of every 20 feet, is a wrought iron diaphragm, and tie rods and angle iron still further add to its strength. The curve of the arch is 28 feet, and the tension chains at the ends have, of course, the same. These chains are similar in principle to those of an ordinary suspension bridge, except that, instead of being made with links of seven bars, each link consists of 14 bars of iron an inch thick and six inches wide. Each of these chains has been tested with a tension strain of between three and four tons to the inch. Both chain and tubes are connected by wrought iron trusses to the roadway, the longitudinal beams of which are braced together by transverse wrought iron floor girders. When each span was completed, before finally lifting it to its place, the scaffolding was knocked away and the whole mass tested with a deadweight strain, uniformly distributed, of 1,200 tons, which, with the weight of the truss itself, was increased to about 2,300 tons. Under this load the whole span deflected seven inches, recovering itself in a few hours after the mass was removed. The greatest strain which the bridge can undergo when covered with ballast to the depth of a foot and loaded with a train of locomotive engines, will be less by half a ton per inch upon the chains and tubes than the testing strain we have mentioned.

When each span had been completed two iron pontoons, each 50 feet long by 10 feet broad and 12 feet deep, were sunk under both ends, the water let out of them at low tide, and with the return of the flood the span was floated to the centre of the stream. One was thus floated out about the middle of last year, and one during last July. The floating was, of course, managed in an hour or so. Lifting them to their places, however, has been and still is a long and most laborious operation. At each end of a span are two hydraulic presses, of 22 and 11 inches diameter respectively; but, of course, as these in raising have to carry the whole weight of the spans, they require the most massive foundations, so much so, in fact, that only those which are built for the bridge itself will serve their turn. Thus the span is floated to the centre of the river, and rested at the height of the tide upon the first six foot joints of the two iron columns in the middle of the stream on one side, and the beginning of the pier of masonry at the water's

edge on the other. Twice every week the whole span is lifted in one day three feet, when the masonry is built up another three feet in three days, then the span gets another lift, as before, making its total progress six feet in a week. The iron columns placed under the end in the stream pier are, however, in six feet lengths, as we have said, so that only one can be put under at one time each week.

In this manner the west-end half was raised, the two iron columns and masonry pier in that half of the Tamar rising as the bridge rose. Now, the eastern half is going up in precisely the same manner. When both are raised to the top, the four iron centre columns and centre pieces of masonry will be completed, though the two ends of the span will not rest on the top of the columns, but upon a huge mass of iron built on them, called a standard, and into which the spans are bolted. This standard weighs no less than 200 tons, and is built of five joints, each joint, like those in the columns, being 6 feet high, and weighing 40 tons. When the whole bridge takes its bearings, as they are termed, the pressure on the centre pier foundation will be upwards of 8 tons to the foot, or double the pressure of the whole mass of the Victoria Tower on its basement. Any oscillating movement is counteracted by the transverse floor girders, and the ballasting checks a vibratory motion. Six inches has been allowed for expansion and contraction to each tube, but the greatest difference yet observed between the hottest and the coldest day has only made a difference of 2 inches in the length of the bridge. The total quantity of wrought iron in the bridge is 2,650 tons; of cast iron, about 1,200 tons; of masonry and brickwork, about 17,000 cubic yards, and of timber, about 14,000 cubic feet. Wherever the praise of engineering works can penetrate, the fame of Saltash and its magnificent viaduct is likely to be as widely known as the colossal work which spans the Straits of Menai.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE.—The "Times" says:—"All appearances indicate that the present cable must be given up; and we should hope that the costly experience which has been gained may be used in the construction of its successor. There can be no doubt of final success. We have only to pursue our respective courses, the Americans taking up the personalities of the question, the English confining themselves to its more practical branches; and by the time the former have proved themselves the cleverest people in the world, we shall have produced a working cable."

WINE AND THE COMET.—The vintage throughout France is pretty well over, and it is now beyond doubt that the vintage of 1858 proves one of the best ever known. This year's wine will, like that of 1811, be the "comet wine"—it will be such in quantity as well as in quality. "Everywhere" we read in the last number of the "Vigneron"—"everywhere satisfaction is felt as to the result of the vintage. In the Department of the Cher the yield exceeds by one-third the quantity looked for; and about Châlons the quality is above that of ordinary years. In the Loiret the quantity is at least one-fifth more than is realised in general. At Villefranche and at La Rochelle the crop exceeds all expectation, and the quality is most excellent. In the Department of the Indre, Lower Loire, and Saône and Loire, the vintage has turned out most satisfactorily, and the quality of the wine proves most superior. Equally favourable accounts are being received not only from every part of France, but likewise from Italy, Spain, Portugal, and from the borders of the Rhine."

ROUTES TO VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.—We may mention for the information of any who may intend to go out to the gold-fields, that of the various routes to Vancouver, that by Panama is the quickest. The West India mail packets start for the Isthmus on the 2nd and 17th of each month. The length of the voyage is twenty-two days. Trains run across to Panama every day, thence to San Francisco steamers take about fourteen days. Small steamers take the minor up the Fraser, calling at Victoria for permits, &c., and land him at Fort Yale, 150 miles up the river, in the midst of the diggings. The second route is that overland, through Canada and the United States. Railways and steamers run as far as St. Paul's in Minnesota, and thence a distance of 1,200 miles across the Rocky Mountains takes you to the diggings. Expeditions are being fitted out in Canada and the States for this route. Wagons pass the Rocky Mountains at the Kootenai Pass. The writer remembers a miner in the California fever days, going across alone on foot, and trundling his worldly goods in a wheelbarrow. The third route is, without change of conveyance, round Cape Horn.—Fraser's Magazine.

AMERICA ANGLICISED.—The New York correspondent of the "Daily News" says:—"It is curious to see how rapidly, and yet how imperceptibly, this country is being Anglicised; and no less curious to observe how strenuously the natives persist in believing that they are building up a state of society peculiarly and distinctively American. I am inclined to believe that the points of difference between the United States and the mother country are not only yearly decreasing, but are in reality less to-day in number and magnitude than before the revolution. The old feeling of political hostility which in reality has been for years the only barrier between them, is gradually dying out, and they are now flying together as if by the mere force of sympathy. English newspapers were never so much read as they are now, and English news never so extensively copied by the daily press here. English society, English social, religious, and philanthropic movements, are watched with the closest interest. The leading incidents of them all are discussed in the newspapers with as much assiduity, and in pretty much the same tone, as if they were home topics. All through the country there are now large farms held and worked by wealthy amateurs, stocked with choice breeds of cattle imported from England, and cultivated with almost as much enthusiasm as Tiptree. The colleges have taken to boating with as much zest as either Oxford or Cambridge, and Yale and Harvard, the two leading universities of New England, have their clubs, and matches every year. More than this, there is a rage springing up for baseball and cricket, and football—sports almost unknown a few years ago. Cricket, especially, has this summer been quite in vogue. Perhaps no portion of the public inclines so strongly England-ward as the religious public, which here enjoys an influence that is far from falling to its lot in the Old World. The religious press in particular is intensely British, and all pulpit allusions to England are as flattering as the most 'Bullish' of her sons could desire. It is rather amusing to witness the desperate efforts of the Russian and French party here to fight against influences of this sort. It is quite evident that as long as they are at work it matters little what treaties are made by diplomatists."

THE WOOLLEN TRADE.—In a very interesting paper, read by Mr. Edward Baines before the British Association "On the woollen manufacture of England, with special reference to the Leeds clothing district," he said that in the mill of Messrs. Gott, 34 distinct processes might be seen; and, while the average price of sheep's wool, during 1854-55, was 1s. 4d. a lb. for foreign, and 1s. 2d. or 1s. 3d. for English, cotton wool averaged only 5d., and flax 5d. The supply of sheep's wool never could be increased so rapidly as that of any product requiring only the cultivation of the soil. In 1799 we imported 2,263,000 lb. of foreign and colonial wool; but last year the quantity was 127,000,000 lb., of which 90,900,000 lb. was retained for home consumption, and the rest exported. The first foreign wool came to us from Spain, the native country of the merino sheep. Thence, in 1800, we obtained 6,062,000 lb., or two-thirds of all our foreign supply; after the French invasion the quality fell off, and last year Spain supplied us with only 383,000 lb. The wool of Saxony and Silesia gradually took its place; and the quantity thence rose from 412,000 lb. in 1800 to 25,000,000 lb. in 1850. The German wool was still the finest; but the quantity taken by us had fallen to 5,993,000 lb. last year. The introduction of the merino sheep into Australia, by Mr. McArthur, very greatly led to this result; for our supply thence had increased from 167 lb., in 1810, to 49,000,000 lb. in 1857. In South Africa, or Cape wools, the increase had been from 9,623 lb. in 1816, to 14,287,000 lb. in the last year; and from the East Indies, 67,000 lb. in 1834, had risen to 19,370,000 lb. last year. Of the annual production of wool in the United Kingdom there were absolutely no reliable statistics whatever. The balance of authority led him to place it between 50 and 200 million pounds; and taking the medium, 175 millions, at 1s. 3d. per pound (the average of the last thirty years), the value would be £10,937,500. The total value of woollen and worsted goods and yarn exported last year was £13,645,000; it having been much checked during the last ninety years by the introduction of the cotton manufacture, of which, in goods and yarn, £38,289,000 worth was exported last year. He thought it not safe to assume that there were more than 150,000 operatives engaged in the woollen trade, making 275,000 together; while the total number of persons directly dependent upon the trade might be set down at 897,500 (including the workers), there being a larger number of dependent workers in auxiliary trades than in connection with any other manufacture, raw cotton and silk being wholly imported, and flax very nearly so. The wages of those engaged in the woollen manufacture would average about 12s. 6d. a week for each man, woman, and child, making, for the 150,000 workers, £4,875,000 a year. The annual value of the woollen manufacture of the kingdom might be thus stated, and certainly with tolerable accuracy that the figures were not excessive:—Foreign and colonial wool, 79,903,000 lbs., worth £4,717,000; 80 million lbs. of British wool, £5,000,000; 30 million lbs. shoddy, at 24d., and 15 million lbs. mungo, at 43d., worth £269,000; cotton and cotton wares, £206,000; making about 10½ millions sterling for materials. Then there came dye wares, oils, and soap, £1,500,000; wages, £4,875,000; rent, wear and tear, interest, profit, &c., £3,381,000; making a grand total of £20,290,000 as the value of the woollen manufacture of the kingdom.

With the "Illustrated Times" of Nov. 6 will be issued Two Large and Elaborately-Engraved

MAPS OF IRELAND AND SCOTLAND.
Forming two of the Series of Maps in course of publication in connection with this newspaper. The size of each will be 20 inches by 35 inches; and the price of the two Maps and the Paper will be 5d. Specimens may be seen at the agents.

SIR E. LANDSEER'S RETURN FROM HAWKING.
A highly-finished Engraving of the above celebrated Work of Art was issued with the "Illustrated Times" for October 2. Size 20 inches by 14 inches. Price of the Newspaper and Plate, which are still on sale, 4½d. or free by post, Five Stamps.

THE WELCOME GUEST.
A New Illustrated Weekly Magazine for family reading, by the writers and artists of the "Illustrated Times," amusing in tone, varied in character, rich in illustration, elegant in appearance, and economical in price. Twenty-Five Numbers are already published, price One Penny each. Five Monthly Parts are issued, price 5d. or 6d. each.

THE CHERBOURG NUMBERS OF THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.
Price One Shilling.
These Numbers contain a Full Description of the Port of Cherbourg, with the amplest Details respecting the gigantic Works just completed by the French Emperor.
Illustrated with Fifty Engravings.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.
R. F. P. O.—The address of Mr. Stanford, is 6, Charing Cross, London. He will colour your Map of England and Wales.
THE GENERAL SELL.—See the "Welcome Guest," No. 27.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1858.

THE WESTERN BANK.

READERS whose associations are merely southern, can hardly fancy the effect produced in Scotland by the recent call of £100 a share from the shareholders of this wretched concern. It is spoken of in the newspapers even of places unconnected with the speculation as a kind of national calamity. Nor is this wonderful. There is probably no country where there is a larger proportion of families of small means living in quiet respectability, and yet of a superior degree of education and intelligence; and it is on these that the blow falls. Thousands are ruined; indeed, the shares paid on, will be paid, in several cases, by the greatest millionaires of the country, and the havoc is literally made amidst the middle class.

Under these circumstances, it is no wonder if people are eagerly asking whether nothing can be done to bring to justice, either by criminal or civil process, the directors on the faith of whose names men invested their money in the speculation. The question was asked when the bubble first burst; but at that time the whole world was in a commercial crisis, and the Scotch people felt their nationality in some degree involved in the honour even of the Western Bank. Like all small countries with great reputations, Scotland is intensely national, and it sometimes carries the sentiment too far. It would indeed be unjust to blame the gentlemen who endeavoured at first to break the shock by offering to take the notes in payment of rent and so forth. They were not men of business; they were told that this would mitigate the misfortune, and as regards the public—distinct from the shareholders—it did mitigate it. But there was certainly weakness shown by that much larger body which thought the honour of the country involved in saving the directors from the consequences of what was certainly either crime, or folly almost amounting to crime. For it will be hard to show that one or other of these is not to be imputed to men who, being the trustees of the property of large bodies of their countrymen, authorised the payment of high dividends a few months before such a crash as that of the Western. It has been justly remarked that the very magnitude of the losses proves these dividends to have been fictitious, amounting, as they do, in sums like £339,000, £246,000, and £130,000, to an aggregate of three millions. How could a director who did his duty be ignorant of this fictitiousness? and if he did not do his duty, is he not amenable to those who have suffered by his neglect?

But all the mischief that was done by the Western Bank's style of business is not appreciated in England, well as England knows its general result of ruin. The fact is, that it deranged the trade of Glasgow. It made advances to firms in the muslin trade, for instance, which undersold the legitimate and respectable houses, and destroying many of them, injured all. The hollowiness of the system became apparent when those firms (whose operations were on a gigantic scale) failed, and the Bank itself after them. But what mischief had been done before this wretched though just result came about! The reaction told through the whole chain of the business down to the humblest work-people, and the sum-total of misery was immense.

The question now is, what proceedings should be taken against the directors, and the Scotch public, we suspect, are quite ready by this time to wish them success. We confess that we see no chance of criminal measures, because there seems a want of any technical legal offence which could be construed into felony for legal purposes. But as for the prospect of a civil remedy in the shape of damages, if sought in the Court of Session, we are assured by men who know the law of Scotland that it is excellent. The shareholders, as we see by the reports of a recent meeting, are taking the necessary preliminaries at this moment, and before long we trust to see a good legal precedent established. The directors are properly and morally just as liable for what is lost through their negligence as a factor or any other agent, and we hope that the law of Scotland may be found adequate to make them so.

Moralising is useless, and perhaps looks pedantic in the presence of such distress as is now suffered in Scotland from the last step in this unhappy affair. But for all that, we must not forget that, badly as the bank was managed, the public encouraged its delinquencies by its insatiable appetite for an unhealthy amount of dividend. So long as people will run risks for the sake of a chance of getting from 8 to 15 per cent. for their money, they will be liable to such catastrophes as that which is now agitating so many households in North Britain.

LORD LYONS is lying dangerously ill at Arundel Castle. The Hon. Mr. Lyons arrived on Saturday from Florence to attend his father.

ROEHAMPTON PARK.—The magnificent mansion built by Chambers, the seat of the Earl of Bessborough, and so long the residence of the late Mr. Roberts, Esq., the banker, together with the park, pleasure-grounds, &c., upwards of 110 acres in extent, have passed into the hands of the Conservative Land Society.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE EARL OF DORSET has completely recovered from his late severe attack.

THE GREAT SKIFF RACE BETWEEN CLASPER AND CAMPBELL was pulled back on Loch Lomond. The distance was upwards of four miles. Clasper came in the winner by forty yards. The match was for £100 and the championship of Scotland.

THE COAST OF SCOTLAND on all its salient points is ordered to be put in an efficient state of defence. Several 32-pounders are to be sent from Woolwich to fortify the martello towers at Leith. The fortification of the island of Inchkeith, for the protection of Leith, is under the consideration of the Government.

THERE IS AN UNPLEASANT ON DIT IN CIRCULATION, that the Art Manufacture Association started so recently at Edinburgh, and under such favourable auspices, has ceased to exist. We can scarcely credit the rumour until it meets with more distinct confirmation.

BARRACKS have been completed at Grantham, occupying a space of 142 feet by 222 feet. The exterior is of rough blue stone, with dressed facings. The parade-ground is 180 feet long and 120 feet in width, and a covered drill-shed is provided. The magazine is bomb-proof.

NOTWITHSTANDING orders to the contrary, it is said, the German Legion at the Cape continues upon full-pay and allowances.

SIR JOHN RAMSDEN has offered to give £3,000 towards a public park for Huddersfield, provided the inhabitants will raise the rest of the money required, and purchase a certain plot of ground known as the Spring Green estate, for the park, without levying any local rate.

THE ISSUE OF THE OXFORD ESSAYS has ceased; but there is to be one more volume of "Cambridge Essays," with which that series also will conclude. The latter volume is expected to be published at the close of the year.

THE LARGE WINDOWS IN THE CUPOLA OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL are undergoing a change. The prison-like bars, which tended more than anything else to obscure Thornhill's paintings, are being exchanged for large sheets of ground glass, with divisions of a geometric and appropriate character.

A SPACIOUS BUILDING is in course of erection in Woolwich Arsenal, intended as a repository for models belonging to the Royal Carriage Department—viz., model gun carriages, platforms, mortar beds, targets, ambulance carts, invalid cots, &c.

A RESOLUTION IS IN COURSE OF SIGNATURE inviting the Mayor of Birmingham to call a public meeting at Birmingham on the 27th inst., for the purpose of giving Mr. Bright an opportunity of addressing his constituents.

THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF THIS CATHEDRAL, following the example of the cathedral body at Rochester, Durham, and elsewhere, have determined on throwing open the cathedral gratuitously for two hours daily.

THE NEW CHURCH recently erected in Woolwich Dockyard for the use of the corps of Royal Marines, and for the artisans and others employed in the Admiralty establishment, is now completed.

MR. JAMES MURRAY, of the Foreign Office, has been appointed Assistant Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. There have been only two Under-Secretaries since August, 1827, when on the resignation of the Marquis of Cambridge, the third Under-Secretaryship was not filled up.

BLENHEIM PALACE, the seat of the Duke of Marlborough, has been robbed of jewellery and plate to the amount of £3,000.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON again indulges the public with the view of his fine pictures, vases, and sets of plate in Apsley House. Cards are to be obtained at Messrs. Mitchell's, Old Bond Street.

THE REV. ALBERT DOOLE, whose opinions on the subject of the consessional have lately made his name familiar to the public, has been appointed to a mastership in the grammar school at Hildesheim, Saxony.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION in Paris has declared that he would not tolerate any more of those "belletrists" who look in the public schools of that country.

IT IS INTENDED TO CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY OF ROBERT BURNS, in January next, at his birth-place, on the banks of Doon, by a meeting of the "Burns Club." Sir James Fergusson will occupy the chair. Professor Agnew has been requested to deliver a discourse.

AS ADMIRALTY ORDER has been issued, requiring the entry of sixteen 84-gun ships in the Royal Navy to men-of-war of 700 tons in height.

GOVERNMENT are seriously entertaining the question of buying a cable from our shores to Gibraltar in one stretch, a distance of 1,000 nautical miles, and thence to Malta, there to join the existing Malta cable line.

MR. ALBERT WIGAN has greatly recovered, and it is again rumoured that he will shortly appear on the stage.

THE REMOVAL, lately current in Paris, of a projected marriage between Prince Napoleon and the Princess Clotilde of Savoy, is discredited, at the same time that it is not thought improbable that the Prince may pay a visit to the Court of Turin.

A NEGRO, demi-doctor and demi-sorcerer, is making a furor in Paris. He is described as "a fine, handsome negro, well-made, covered with diamonds and jewellery, and drawn by a pair of valuable horses in an elegant carriage, living in luxurious apartments, demanding fabulous prices for his drugs, which he administers himself."

MISS COULTER, they say, has offered the sum of £15,000 towards the endowment of a bishopric in British Columbia.

A MISSIONARY PARTY, consisting of Mr. Moffatt and wife, Mr. Moffatt, jun., and wife, and the wife of Dr. Livingstone, were about to leave Cape Town in September for the interior.

APARTMENTS have been engaged at the Hôtel de Louvre for Jung Bahadoor, the Nepalese Prince, who is expected in Paris on his way to London.

MR. J. D. COLLIERIDGE, who defended the Rev. R. T. West on the occasion of the late Boyne Hill inquiry, is to be raised to the rank of Queen's Counsel after the commencement of Michaelmas Term in November next. The same honour will be conferred upon Mr. Hawkins, of the Home Circuit, and Mr. Kerslake, of the Western Circuit.

THE MAYOR OF MELBOURNE was entertained at dinner on Friday week by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL propose to confer the freedom of the City and a sword upon Lord Clyde and Sir James Outram.

THE HEALTH OF THE BISHOP OF NORWICH is gradually improving. His Lordship has made arrangements for holding a confirmation at Norwich on the 26th inst.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR has appointed Mr. Whitehead, the senior registrar of the Bankruptcy Court, to the office of chief registrar, vacant by the decease of Mr. Campbell. Mr. Whitehead has been a registrar of the court since its foundation in 1827. The appointment is worth upwards of 2,000 a year.

MR. W. F. HIGGINS, private secretary to Sir E. B. Lytton at the Colonial Office, has been appointed one of the registrars of the Court of Bankruptcy.

THE EMPEROR has made a present to the Empress's mother, Madame de Montijo, of the mansion in the Champs Elysées, bought of the Marquis de Launay. The value of this property, greatly augmented by improvements, is now not less than four millions of francs.

LORD CHARLES WELLESLEY, brother and heir-presumptive of the Duke of Wellington, died on Saturday morning at Conoit Park, Wilts. Lord Charles was the youngest of the two sons of the late illustrious Duke of Wellington, and was born January 16, 1808, at the chief secretary's lodge, Phoenix Park, Dublin.

THE OFFICERS who accompanied the PRINCE OF PRUSSIA in his recent visit to Warsaw, have all received decorations from the Emperor of Russia.

THE SCREW STEAMER COLOMBO, belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental Company, has been "drawn out" thirty-six feet amidships, for the purpose of being lengthened to that extent. She will then be 316 feet long, and her capacity will be 2,200 tons. She is also to be supplied with new boilers and a new screw.

THE LEGION OF HONOUR now consists of 55,285 members, viz., 70 grand crosses, 230 grand officers, 1,102 commanders, 4,827 officers, and 49,056 knights. The above numbers are exclusive of foreigners having the decoration. The oldest dignitaries of the order are Marshal Count Reille and Duke Pasquier, grand crosses of 1815; Lieutenant-General Duke de Talleyrand-Périgord, grand officer of 1821.

THE LIQUIDATORS OF THE DISTRICT BANK, Newcastle-on-Tyne, paid the first dividend of 5s. in the pound to the depositors in the bank last week. The total dividend would then amount to about half a million. The payment was made in the new Town Hall.

THE DUKE DE CHARTRES, second son of the late Duke of Orleans, is about to enter the Piedmontese army, it is said. No opposition is offered by the French Government.

THE "PAYS" has cautioned all folk in Paris who have the audacity to keep in their counting-houses a mechanical copying press for letters and documents; such a dangerous implement being prohibited by some ukase in 1852, and a licence from the Minister of the Home Department being required for its possession.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

SOCIETY has been shocked by the details this week presented to us of the burning of the unfortunate steamer *Austria*. From the statement of a passenger, Mr. Brew, it would appear that, had the merest presence of mind been exercised, the catastrophe would have been comparatively slight. The officers were the first to make for the boats; the helmsman deserted his post; the ship was kept in the most dangerous position; and complete panic ensued. The burning originated in culpable negligence; the drowning resulted from the effects of unnecessary terror. Mr. Brew's narrative is very clear and straightforward; but I shall be disposed to receive *cum grano* the statements subsequently published. The agony in them is piled up to such an extent as to smack somewhat of the inventive genius of the Yankee "liner," who found the article appreciated and in demand.

The licensing of the Argyll Rooms is an accomplished fact; and the discussion before the magistrates evoked some pleasant badinage between Sergeant Ballantine and Mr. Bodkin. There seems to have been an unexplained difficulty in the argument. It was contended that everybody visiting the Argyll Rooms behaved in the most decorous manner, and that the closing of these rooms had thrown a number of disorderly women upon the neighbouring street! How are these statements reconcilable? Is the *régime* of Mr. Bignell, the proprietor of the rooms, so severe that the ladies are awed, or so suave that they are blanded, into propriety?

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.
OLYMPIC—HAYMARKET—GOSSIP.

EVERYBODY was at the Olympic on Monday night. You know who everybody is who attends great theatrical events—the regular critics of course, well-known *littérateurs*, brother-dramatists, eager and anxious, actors who do not happen to be playing, steady, sober, drama-loving pitteers, and the *dilettanti*—men generally of the *genus* swell, titled fogies, animated Truefitts—blocks attached to the Household Brigade, album-filling clerks in the higher government offices, who are great at charades, and call actors by their Christian names—and their hangers-on and toudies. Everybody was interested, for Mr. Wilkie Collins's new play was to be produced, and the author's name is justly appreciated by all who respect great natural talent, allied to industry, energy, and unremitting perseverance and study. The piece was not successful; and, I grieve to say, many people were pleased. Mr. Collins is a clever man, and talent is generally hated by mediocrity; he has been fortunate, and is consequently envied by the disappointed; he is regarded as belonging to a certain set which it is now thought proper to sneer at, calumniate, and malign. The piece, which is called "The Red Vial," was not successful, because in it a series of horrors had been accumulated, and a British audience, which will look calmly on the bloody fingers of Macbeth, and listen with complacency to the faint shrieks of the smothered Desdemona, broke out into open indignation at the sight of a man awakening from a cataleptic trance. This was, I believe, the real reason why the play failed with the general bulk of the audience, but there were two or three incongruities, which, while they doubtless would have been passed over by the unobservant, still demand notice from the critical. Let me first detail the plot: Widow Bergmann (Mrs. Stirling), acting as housekeeper to Isaac Rodenberg (Mr. Addison), has stolen from him 5,000 dollars, and falsified the entry in his ledger to hide the theft. The money was taken to satisfy the pressing demands of creditors, and to avoid an exposure which would have broken off the match intended between her daughter Minna (Miss Marston) and Karl (Mr. Gordon), the son of Keller (Mr. F. Vining) Rodenberg's partner. The theft is discovered by Rodenberg by a comparison between the ledger and his private cash-book, and announced by him to Mrs. Bergmann; she winces at first, but eventually suggests that the only person who had opportunities for committing the robbery was Hans Grimm, (Mr. Robson) a half-witted person, who had been rescued by Rodenberg from confinement in a lunatic asylum, and who is deeply attached to him. The wretched Hans is called, and so severely primed, that a return of his previous emotion, and he is led away howling; but the scene has been too much for Rodenberg, and he faints. Minna is despatched by the mother for a restoration, but, instead, she brings a bottle which she found standing on her mother's table, and the label on which declares it to be useful in restoring paper to its pristine state after an erasure. This at once strikes Rodenberg, and he tuxes Mrs. Bergmann with her guilt; she confesses, but prays for mercy for her child's sake, and finally Rodenberg agrees to overlook the crime if the money be restored by the 4th of June—six months from that date—when the yearly balance is struck between the partners. She agrees triumphantly, for her daughter's marriage is fixed for the 3rd—the previous day—and that once concluded, she does not care what may come.

The second act shows us the interior of two chambers: in one lies Rodenberg dangerously ill, and attended by his faithful Hans; in the other sits Mrs. Bergmann, brooding over her plans. The death of Karl's mother has postponed the marriage. The next day is the period for the restitution of the money, and she has no means. Rodenberg's strict business scruples cannot be got over. The money must be paid; she makes one more attempt to soften his heart, and then determines on poisoning him. Her late husband has been a physician, and skilled in the preparation of poisons. Some of those are still in his medicine-chest; she returns to her room, selects the deadliest draught—one contained in a red vial—and pours it into Rodenberg's drink. Her movements have been watched by Hans, who, not clearly comprehending what has happened, nevertheless has his suspicions aroused. He hunts through the medicine-chest, and finds a vial, wrapped in a paper which declares it to be an antidote; he throws away the poisoned drink, and leaves the antidote in its place. Mrs. Bergmann discovers that he has watched her, but soothes him, tells him that the red vial contains a reviving potion, and gives it to him, telling him to apply to it when worn out with fatigue. The third act is laid in the dead house of the city. On one side runs a row of chambers, above the doors of each a dial and an alarm bell. In these are deposited the bodies of the citizens for twenty-four hours after death; a rope attached to their waist communicating with the alarm bell, so that if they be not actually dead, but only in a state of catalepsy, the slightest movement will summon help. Hither come Mrs. Bergmann and Hans to wait the arrival of Rodenberg's body—she distraught with fear and anxiety, he still hopeful, for he knows that his master has not been poisoned, and awaits his awaking from his trance. The existence of the alarm bell arrangement is new to Mrs. Bergmann, and she is horribly disconcerted. Eventually she, Hans, and a drunken watchman are left alone together, when the hand on the dial revolves, the bell strikes, and Rodenberg, restored to his senses, walks forth. She falls senseless, and eventually dies, accidentally poisoned by Hans, who has administered to her, thinking it a restorative, the contents of the red vial which she had given him.

Such is the drama, and every one will allow that it is not lacking in interest; indeed the story, worked out with Mr. Collins's usual care and talent, in "Household Words," would have undoubtedly made a great hit; but between a tale to be read and a drama to be witnessed there is a very great difference, and the mind which would revel over the ingenuity displayed in the construction of horrors, shrinks from actual contact with these horrors through the medium of the eye. There are also two or three incongruities which I wonder did not strike the author at the time of writing. Is it likely that Mrs. Bergmann, having falsified the ledger, would for some months keep on the dressing-table a bottle of the preparation used in her crime, that bottle being labelled with the fullest possible directions? Further, Hans Grimm is represented in the first act as so little cured of idiocy that he is only aroused to keen sense when speaking of his master, or when spoken to by him; but during the remainder of the play, no particular chord need be touched to draw forth his energies, and he is a great deal more sane at the fall of the curtain than he was at its rise. And a third discrepancy strikes one in the fact that while all those preparations have been made for the recovery of a cataleptic patient, when the case actually occurs, the patient is left to struggle back to sense as best he may—the watchman drunk, the surgeon absent!

I do not recollect ever seeing more perfect acting than that of Mrs. Stirling and Mr. Addison, in this piece. The former played the repulsive character allotted to her with a depth and spirit which riveted the attention of the audience, and which really were remarkable for their intensity. Mr. Addison is an artist in the truest sense of the word; a student of nature, instead of a follower of conventional tradition. Mr. Robson was overweighed—his first entrance was admirable, his make-up, bearing, and voice perfect; but he had done his utmost, and, during the remainder of the piece, had to fall back upon a series of epileptic distortions of face, body, and voice, conveying little meaning, and very unpleasant to behold. The piece was admirably placed upon the stage.

Mr. Charles Mathews has returned to the Haymarket, bringing with him his American bride. He looks the worse for his trip, is thinner and older, and seems, to a considerable extent, to have lost his sprightliness. She is very pretty, of the florid rustic style, young, fresh, and hearty, but without any great talent at present apparent. They had a tremendous reception.

There was a misprint in my article last week. It is *Mrs.* not *Mr.* Keeley, who will, with her daughter, join Mr. Falconer's company at the Lyceum at Christmas. Sir William Don will also be of the *troupe*; and I hear that Mr. Robert Brough is hard at work on a burlesque, in which the talents of the three will be combined.

ENGLISH OPERA AT DRURY LANE.

AT this thoroughly national establishment a translation of the Italian version of the German opera called "Martha" (of which most persons who care about music had already heard more than enough) has just been produced, and with decided success. We are not sorry that it has succeeded, nor should we have been sorry if it had failed. Miss Pyne and Mr. Harrison have certainly bestowed more care upon the representation of English opera than ever it was thought worthy of before, and for that reason deserve encouragement; but they would prove themselves still more deserving of public favour if they would interpret the words "English Opera" as meaning operas by English composers, and refrain from placing in the same category operas which are only English in so far that they were executed by English singers, and written, more or less, in the English language. As managers in England receive no assistance from the State, the nation—which the State is supposed to represent—can have no right to call upon managers to produce any particular kind of performance. Even the promise to bring out such and such works ought not to be considered binding on directors who commence their theatrical campaign with a subscription list, for as no one has paid in advance no one can be injured by a departure from the original plan of action. But in the case of the Pyne and Harrison speculation, we are convinced that the interests of the management, of the public, and of English music as an art, would be alike promoted by a determination to produce nothing but English operas—until there are no more good and attractive English operas to produce. For the present, there is an opera by the composer of the "Night Dancers," and another by the composer of "Maritana," which every one has heard of, and which every one is anxious to hear. When we say an opera by the composer of "Maritana," we allude in particular to his "Lurline," but we believe Mr. Wallace has some half-dozen other operas ready for production, and he could write half-a-dozen more in about twice as many months. We will not speak of meritorious composers whose merit the public is unable to see; but we have mentioned two whose works would be sure to succeed in every sense of the word, and they are passed over, not for Meyerbeer, nor even for Verdi, but for a small German, who is unfaithful to the traditions of his own glorious country (the country of Weber and Mozart), and derives his inspiration from the little Parisian *maestri* who torture the public ear on the off-nights at the Opéra Comique.

We consider the production of "Martha" by the Pyne and Harrison company objectionable on other grounds. That opera is being played at Drury Lane now, because it was played some weeks since at Covent Garden. Thus, the so-called English opera is made a sort of success, or chapel-of-ense, to the Italian. Of this we have had other instances during the performances of the Pyne and Harrison *troupe* (e.g., the production of the "Trovatore" and the "Traviata" at the Lyceum); and of late years it has been the custom with all our English operatic companies to pursue the same system. Managers like works that come to them with a certain *prestige*—that is to say, which have been well advertised; and they take it for granted that the public will willingly pay three-and-sixpence to hear a performance, something like one which they could not have heard at the Italian theatre for less than eight shillings! The much-abused Mr. Bunn never fell into this error when he managed an English opera company at Drury Lane. He found it very profitable to produce works by Balfe, Wallace, Benedict, Macfarren, and other English composers (some of whom might even have been left alone); and yet, at the same time, there was another English opera company at the Princess's Theatre, where new operas by Balfe, Macfarren, and Loder were given. On the whole, then, we may congratulate Miss Pyne and Mr. Harrison on their successful exertion in favour of the public and of themselves. We cannot say that they have done very much—certainly not so much as they might have done—for English music. As we said before, there is no shadow of a reason why managers should expose themselves to the loss of a single farthing for the sake of art, but we firmly believe that Miss Pyne and Mr. Harrison would find it much to their interest to produce English operas, and English operas only. No bookseller ever made a fortune by publishing reprints and translations; nor will managers succeed if they depend to any great extent on revivals and adaptations. The desire felt by all audiences for "something new" is sufficiently shown by the enormous success of Verdi in every part of Europe, a success which has been gained in the very teeth of criticism, and which most persons believe to be entirely out of proportion to the merits of his music. People will always go to hear new music. If it is good, it is impossible to hear it too soon; if it is bad, it is necessary to hear it as soon as possible, or there may be no opportunity of hearing it at all.

We may as well mention, now that the new opera, by Mr. Balfe, is said to be completed, and on the point of being put into rehearsal, and in the meanwhile as "Martha" is produced, there is no help for it; it is worth going to see, and in some respects worth going to hear. The opera is admirably put on the stage; of course, Mr. Mellon's orchestra is excellent; and the two principal parts are sung most efficiently by Mr. Harrison and Miss Pyne. The former is encoored with enthusiasm in the ballad of the third act, and the latter, Miss Pyne, produces almost as much sensation by her exquisite singing of "The Last Rose of Summer," as the incomparable Bosio herself. By the way, as the late Mr. Moore had already written some tolerable lines to this air, would it not have been a good idea to sing them? They suit the situation, or rather the situation suits them, exactly; and if the German librettist had been able to translate them literally, a literal translation would certainly have been introduced. A sort of hazy recollection of the original song is discernible even now in the lines sung by Miss Pyne, though, between them, the German, the Italian, and the English librettist have disguised Moore's poetry very cleverly. Perhaps there is some occult reason why good verse should not be admitted into an opera; or, perhaps, it was feared that the real "Last Rose of Summer" would contrast in too striking a manner with the other songs in the piece.

Miss Susan Pyne, who plays Nantier Didiée's part, is, as usual, good-tempered, vivacious, clever and highly successful with the audience. Mr. Honey is laughable as Lord Tristan, but he mixes up rather too much buffoonery with his humour. An actor of Mr. Honey's great comic talent can well afford to do nothing of the kind. Mr. Patey, the new barytone, warbles the "Canzone del Porter" in such a manner as to make us doubt his pretended love for that beverage. At all events, it has not produced upon him that happy effect ascribed to it in the song. Altogether, "Martha" is, at present, a great success.



A ROYAL DEER-STALKING PARTY.—FROM A PAINTING BY CARL HAAG.

DEER-STALKING IN THE HIGHLANDS.

DEER-STALKING is a noble sport; it is, at any rate, the most noble that our country affords; and as such, we may suppose, is the favourite sport of our princes—her Majesty's consort, and her son, the Prince of Wales, during the Balmoral holidays. Our engraving represents the Royal *cortège*, as it was seen last autumn, setting out on an expedition of this character. It must not be supposed, however, that either the Queen or the Princesses took any part in the hunt: they only accompanied the sportsmen to the field where it was to begin. For deer-stalking (though we do read in Scotch papers that "the Lord Chief Justice has greatly distinguished himself by his activity in stalking in Ken Rensort Forest") is not an idle game. In order that our stay-at-home readers may know what it is, we borrow the following description from "British Rural Sports," by Stobhenge, and from the famous hunter, Mr. Scrope:—

"It may readily be supposed, that for the pursuit of deer-stalking a hardy frame and plenty of pluck in the stalker are required. The foot should be sure, and the eye keen and long-seeing, as the telescope cannot always be applied to that all-important organ. He should be practised in running, stooping, in crawling on his breast, or on his back, by means of his elbows and heels; and should care neither for business, nor cold, nor wet. The nerves should be good, for the ex-

citement produced by this sport is such as to render unsteady the hand of all but those who are of the phlegmatic temperament. "Dutch courage" is not desirable, but "Dutch phlegm" will here serve in good stead. The bodily powers are not the only ones which should be well-developed, for the brain should be as active and energetic as the body itself. The red deer is as cunning an animal as any alive, and to circumvent him, all the resources of the mind of man must be called into play. The stalker must be full of plans and resources, yet cautious in putting them into execution, for many a well-matured scheme has been frustrated by some thoughtless act on the part of the schemer. Great control over the feelings is absolutely essential; for the giving way to the exultation of hope, or the depression produced by the fear of losing a shot, will generally cause that which is most to be apprehended. Above all, temperance must be practised—no shaking hand or finching eye will serve the purpose of the stalker; nor will the parched throat or the perspiring skin avail him when rushing up the hill-side or through the winding valley.

The dress of the deer-stalker should be light and elastic, yet tolerably warm. For these purposes, the Scotch twilled-plaid is the best for the coat and vest, while the lower garments may be of somewhat stronger texture, yet still of wool. The head should be covered with a close-fitting cap, and the shoes should be studded with strong nails,

to enable the foot to take secure hold of the slippery stones found in the burns and among the heather. A pair of leather gaiters should be worn also, as a protection against injury, and may either be put on under a pair of trousers, or worn with knee-breeches, according to the taste of the sportsman. The colour of all should be sober and neutral; gray, or a mixture of black and white, being as good as any, since it accords well with the granite rocks which are so common in the haunts of the deer."

There are three modes of stalking:—1st, by quiet stalking; 2nd, by stalking in quick time; and 3rd, by driving.

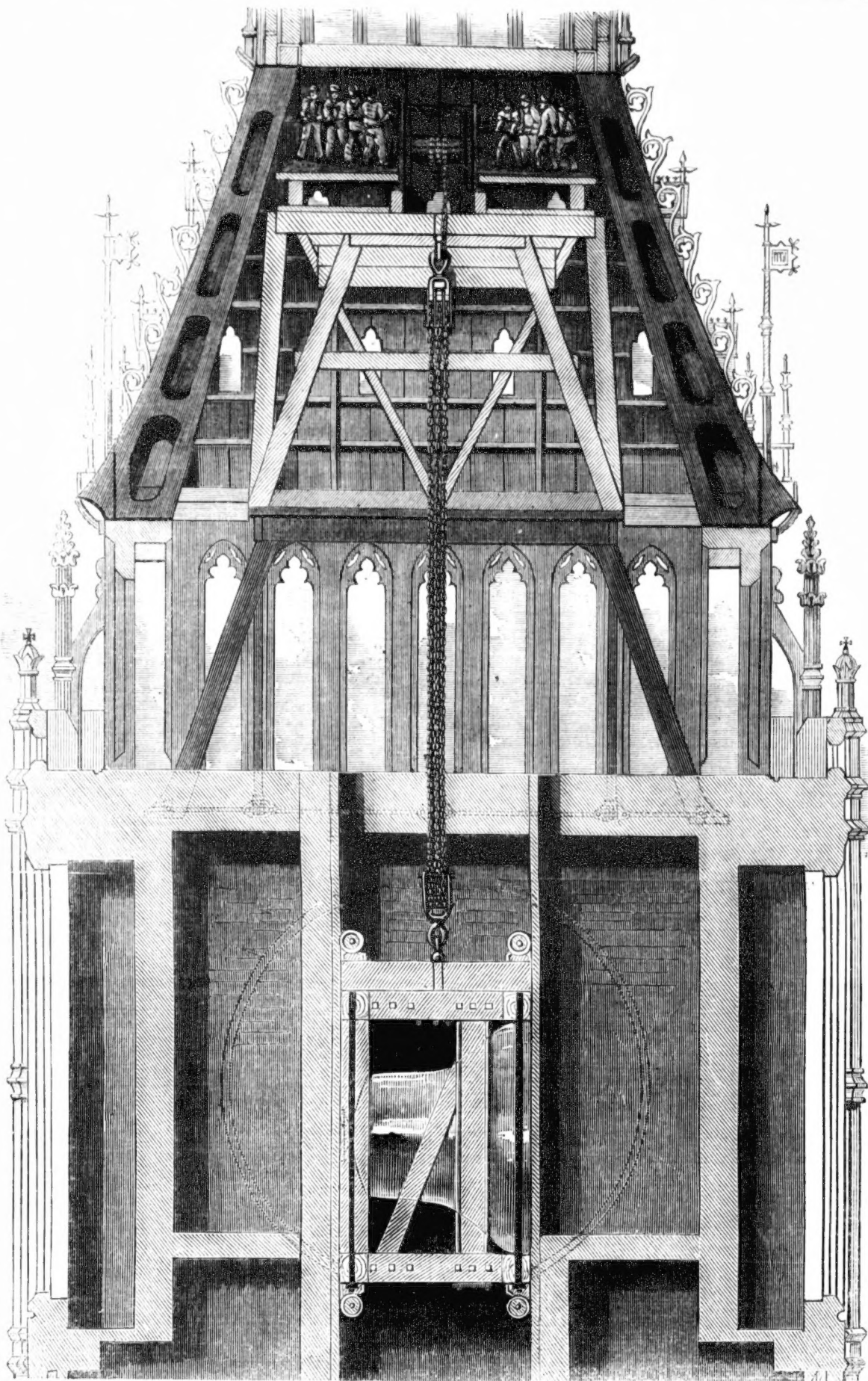
The following is the mode of conducting quiet stalking, as described by Mr. Scrope:—"One or two stalkers getting on their horses, proceed to the edge of the deer forest, where they leave them, and are joined by two or three gillies, and a brace of deerhounds in slips. The first point is to ascend the most likely mountain to its top, and that will be the one which commands the glens and hill-sides upon which the deer are most likely to be at that particular time. Having reached its summit, the stalker, or one of his men, should cautiously raise his telescope over its brow, and applying his eye, should sweep the whole range presented to his view with deliberate caution. As soon as the deer is discovered, an attempt must be made to approach him, without being seen, or heard; and this is well attended to

in the following scene, which is extracted from Mr. Scrope's book, with some abbreviations and omissions. The lart is just described, and Tortoise (Mr. Scrope) thus speaks to his friend and pupil, Lightfoot:—"A noble fellow he is, Maclaren; I can just see his horns, and the point of his shoulders. It is a glorious chance, for, once in the burn, we can get within a hundred yards of him, and that is near enough, in all conscience. Here, Lightfoot, look at the fine fellow; pull off your cap, and rest the glass on the stone." "Not the semblance of a deer can I see; but I'll take your word for it—I daresay he is there, since you say so. And now explain to me how you mean to get at him: communicate, my good fellow; for it seems by all your caution, that even at this distance you dare not show a hair of your head." "Creep back there behind the hill, whilst I mark the very spot in the burn which is opposite his lair. Well, now, I will tell you; we must go all round by the east, behind yon hills, and then come up at the notch behind yon two hills, which will bring us into the bog; we can then come forward up the burn, under cover of its bank, and pass from thence into the bog again by a side-wind, when we may take his broadside—and thus have at him; so let us make the best of our way. It would be quite easy to get at the hart, if it were not for the hinds on the top of the hill; but if we start them, and they go on belling, the hart will follow them whether he sees us or not. Get

your wind; he cannot. Maclaren, you will remain here, and watch the deer when I have fired. Sandy, follow you at a proper distance with the dogs; and come you along with us, Peter, and take the rifles. And now, my lads, be canny." The party then advanced, sometimes on their hands and knees, through the deep seams of the bog, and again right up the middle of the burn, winding their cautious course according to the inequalities of the ground. Occasionally the seams led in an adverse direction, and then they were obliged to retrace their steps. This stealthy progress continued some time, till at length they came to some greensward, where the ground was not so favourable. Here was a great difficulty; it seemed barely possible to pass this small piece of ground without discovery. Fraser, aware of this, crept back, and explored the bog in a parallel direction, working his way like a mole, while the others remained prostrate. Returning, all wet and hemired, his long serious face indicated a failure. This dangerous passage, then, was to be attempted, since there was no better means of approach. Tortoise, in low whispers, again entreated the strictest caution, "Raise not a foot or hand; let not a hair of your head be seen; but, as you value sport, imitate my motions precisely; everything depends upon this movement; this spot once passed successfully, we are safe from the hinds." He then made a signal for Sandy to lie down with the dogs, and, placing himself flat on his stomach, began to worm his way close under the low ridge of the bog; imitated most correctly and beautifully by the rest of the party. The burn now came sheer up to intercept the passage, and formed a pool under the bank, running deep and drumly; the leader then turned his head round slightly, and, passing his hand along the grass as a signal for Lightfoot to wreath himself alongside of him, said, "Now, my good fellow, no remedy—if you do not like a ducking, stay here; but if you do remain, pray lie like a flounder till the shot is fired. Have no curiosity, I beg and beseech you; and speak as I do, in a low whisper." "Pshaw! I can follow wherever you go, and in the same position too." "Bravo, here goes, then; but if you love sport, do not make a splash in the water, but go in as quiet as a fish, and keep under the high bank, although it is deeper there—there is a great nicety in going in properly; that is the difficult point. I believe it must be head foremost; but we must take care to keep our heels down as we slide in, and not to wet the rifles. Hist! Peter, here, lay the rifles on the bank, and give them to me when I am in the burn." Tortoise then worked half his body over the bank, and, stooping low, brought his hands upon a large granite stone in the burn, with his breast to the water, and drew the rest of his body after him as straight as he possibly could. He was then half immersed, and, getting close under the bank, took the rifles; the rest followed admirably; in fact, the water was not so deep as it appeared to be, being scarcely over the hips. They proceeded in this manner about twenty yards, when, the ground being more favourable, they were enabled to get on dry land. "Do you think it will do?" "Hush! hush! he has not seen us yet; and yonder is my mark; the deer lies opposite it to the south—he is almost within gunshot even now." A sign was given to Fraser to come alongside, for they were arrived at the spot from which it was necessary to diverge into the moss. In breathless expectation they now turned to the eastward, and crept forward through the bog, to enable them to come in upon the flank of the hart, who was lying with his head upwind, and would thus present his broadside to the rifle when he started; whereas, if they had gone in straight behind him, his haunches would have been the only mark, and the shot would have been a disgraceful one. Now came the anxious moment. Ever, thing hitherto had succeeded; much valuable time had been spent: they had gone forward in every possible position; their hands and knees buried in bogs, wreathing on their stomachs through the mire, or wading up the burns; and all this one brief moment might render futile, either by means of a single throb of the pulse in the act of firing, or a sudden rush of the deer which would take him instantly out of sight. Tortoise raised his head slowly, but he saw not the quarry. By degrees he raised himself an inch higher, but Peter plucked him suddenly by the arm and pointed. The tips of his horns alone were to be seen above the hole in the bog—no more. Fraser looked anxious, for well he knew that the first spring would take the deer out of sight. A moment's pause, when the sportsman held up his rifle steadily above the position of the hart's body; then making a slight ticking noise, up sprang the deer—as instantly the shot was fired, and crash went the ball against his ribs, as he was making his rush.

Stalking in double-quick time is practised upon a somewhat different principle to quiet-stalking, and is intermediate between that species of sport and the driving of the deer, which is only practised on rare occasions, and for high and mighty personages. Both these latter plans disturb the deer so much that they would, if often adopted, scare them, and drive them all off to other forests; and, therefore, the quiet-stalking is that usually preferred. It is practised by sending one, two, or three gillies, after the discovery of the deer by means of the glass, as before, to such points as shall induce them to move off towards the sportsman, who, when forewarned of their approach by the signal of the hill-men, rushes upon them as they pass a certain point most favourable for the purpose, and fires his rifles, furnished to him one after another by the attendant. Two or three points are here of great importance: first, that the gillies sent on should only allow the wind to convey their scent to the deer, and should not actually show themselves to their sight; secondly, that the leading hinds should always be suffered to pass before the rush is made, because, otherwise, the herd would stop short and return the way they came, or up some side ravine, instead of passing by the expectant stalkers. Great experience and tact are necessary in the gillies; and, after all, upon them more than upon the principal depends the success or failure of the attempt.

There is very little difference between the principles on which driving deer is conducted, and those adopted in the quick-stalking. The chief points in which they are unlike is in the number of hill-men employed.



RAISING THE GREAT BELL FOR THE WESTMINSTER CLOCK-TOWER.



THE GREAT BELL AT THE BASE OF THE TOWER.

George Glossop, superintendent of the Birmingham detective police, disposed, that when he apprehended the prisoner on the charge of being concerned with Calvocressi in getting the coins made, Moss said, "You must be mistaken; I had nothing to do with it." On being told that he had been identified as having accompanied Calvocressi to Mr. Heaton's, he said, "No such thing; I was with Mr. Heaton's; I don't know him; who is he?" Witness explained that Heaton was the gentleman to whom they went to get the coins made. Moss then said, "I went nowhere; it cannot be me; it must be Mr. Joseph Hamson, who is now in Constantinople." Afterwards, on witness describing Heaton and Dowler, Moss said, "I might possibly have called with Mr. Calvocressi on other business, but I took no part in the proceedings whatever."

COALS.—Best Coals Only.—COCKERELL and Co.'s price is now 24s. per ton nett for the best screened coal as supplied by them to her Majesty.—13, Cornhill; Purfleet Wharfe Earl St., Blackfriars; and Eaton Wharf, Belgrave Place, Pimlico.